

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST AND BEST SALTWATER MAGAZINE

ISSUE 566 Jan 10 – Feb 6



www.seaangler.co.uk

ESTABLISHED
1972

Sea Angler

BIG COD OR BUST!

PREVIEW OF £35,000 EUROPEAN OPEN

PLUS: Great places YOU can fish in match area

SEA SCHOOL

9 pages of expert answers to your angling questions

TACKLE ON TEST

Sonik's Gravity
X5 HT rod
+ New gear for 2019

STRAIT TALKING

Make the most of the Menai

TAMING THE TWIST

Fixed-spool reel casting tips

DABS SAVE THE DAY

Shore and boat tactics for winter flatties

RAYS TO THE RESCUE

How to catch undulates from the shore



THE MOST VALUABLE COD IN HISTORY

How a 4lb fish netted big pay day





FISH EAGLE 2PC FLOTATION SUIT

Fantastic life preservation suit with top quality integrated buoyancy in both the jacket and trousers.

Features: Fully adjustable, Hood, waist, braces, hand and ankle cuffs, crotch strap. Detachable Hood, Fleece lining body/hood and pockets with Safety Whistle, Double fold over pockets, Heavy Duty Double front Zip.

This suit has so many features, too many to list!



BEST SELLER

Code	Size
RE0090	S
RE0091	M
RE0092	L
RE0093	XL
RE0094	2XL
RE0096	4XL

RRP: £139.99
Now £99.99



IMAX 2 PIECE THERMO SUIT

Following the classic jacket and bib & brace design. The outer shell is 100% water and wind proof and the high collar and detachable hood combine to keep the worst winter weather at bay.

- Two piece suit
- 100% waterproof
- Heavy duty nylon shell fabric
- Heavy duty, detachable hood with a peak
- Four large outer pockets (jacket)
- One inner pocket (jacket)
- Heavy duty corrosion resistant zip



RRP: £129.99
Now £89.99

Code	Size
SV9634	S
SV9635	M
SV9636	L
SV9637	XL
SV9638	2XL



TRONIX PRO ENVOY 7000 FS REEL

Lightweight, powerful and reliable, the Envoy Fixed Spool from Tronixpro is the ideal partner for continental style surf rods, letting you cast to the horizon every time. Features a grippy rubberised handle, lightweight frame, infinite anti-reverse and a powerful drag that'll stop anything that swims. The high capacity spool is built to hold all line you'll need if your catch heads for the horizon.



SALE
BEST SELLER

Code	Capacity	RRP:	Now Only
TX4268	20lb/230yd	£54.99	£45.00



TFC BANSHEE BEACHCASTERS

When it comes to value for money the Banshee beach caster range is one of the best out there.



BEST SELLER

Code	Length	Model	RRP	Now
AF5327	13ft	Multi/Fixed 4-8oz	£99.99	£69.99
AF5749	14ft	Multi/Fixed 2/4-4/6oz	£139.99	£69.99



IMAX OCEAN THERMO CLOTHING

- Strong and durable 100% polyester peach shell fabric with water-repellent finish
- 100% waterproof TPU lamination of 8.000mm
- 140gsm thermo insulation of 100% polyester for great warmth



Jacket

Code	Size
SV16502	S
SV16503	M
SV16504	L
SV16505	XL
SV16506	2XL

RRP: £69.99
£50.00

Bib & Brace

Code	Size
SV15255	S
SV15256	M
SV15257	L
SV15258	XL
SV15259	2XL

RRP: £79.99
£60.00



TRONIX PRO ENVOY REELS

Tronix Pro have come up with some of the best value for money reel ranges we've ever seen! Classically good looking, long casting with Magnetic Brakes.



SALE

Code	Model	Capacity	RRP	Now
TX3132	Tournament Orbit RHW	250m/0.35mm	£94.99	£50.00
TX3133	Tournament Orbit LHW	250m/0.35mm	£94.99	£50.00
TX4549	Tournament Mono Mag RHW	250m/0.35mm	£106.99	£55.00
TX4550	Tournament Mono Mag LHW	250m/0.35mm	£106.99	£55.00
TX4551	Tournament LW RHW	250m/0.35mm	£104.99	£60.00
TX4552	Tournament LW LHW	250m/0.35mm	£104.99	£60.00
TX4553	Mono Mag RHW	250m/0.35mm	£69.99	£35.00
TX4554	Mono Mag LHW	250m/0.35mm	£69.99	£35.00
TX5805	Envoy Fifty Five 5500 LHW	250m/0.35mm	£64.99	£35.00
TX5806	Envoy Fifty Five 5500 LHW	250m/0.35mm	£64.99	£35.00

Code	Model	Capacity	RRP	Now
TX1632	Mag 6500 Right	250m/0.35mm	£65.99	£35.00
TX1633	Orbit 6500 Left	250m/0.35mm	£65.99	£35.00
TX1634	Orbit 6500 Right	250m/0.35mm	£65.99	£35.00
TX1636	Level Wind 6500 Right	250m/0.35mm	£62.99	£35.00
TX3130	Tournament Mag RHW	250m/0.35mm	£99.99	£55.00
TX3131	Tournament Mag LHW	250m/0.35mm	£99.99	£55.00




DAIWA SEAHUNTER Z SURF ROD SERIES

- Highly reliable and durable high carbon blanks
- Hard chromed Aluminium Oxide guides
- Under wrapped thread wrapping throughout
- Metal joint collars on certain models




Code	Length	Pcs	Casts	RRP	Now
DW7351	14ft	3	4-8oz	£100.00	£70.00
DW7352	15ft	3	4-8oz	£110.00	£70.00



PENN GS 525 MAG3 SERIES

- Latest version of the classic all round beach casting reel
- Upgraded graphite frame
- Aluminium reinforced graphite side plates
- Indexed adjustable magnetic casting control



Code	Model	Capacity	RRP	Price
PE1875	525	15lb/280yds	£179.99	£130.00

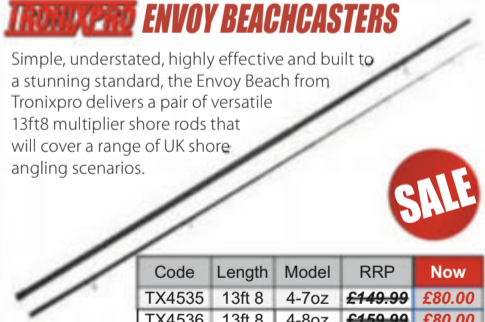


PENN SURFBLASTER II FIXED SPOOL REEL

Features a strong but lightweight graphite frame with graphite side plates, a forged and machined Longstroke aluminium spool with line capacity rings, 5+1 stainless steel shielded ball bearings for smoothness under heavy retrieve pressure, a powerful but smooth HT 100 carbon fibre drag system, rotor brake, and a manual balearm.




Code	Model	Capacity	Ratio	BB	RRP	Price
PE1777	7000	330yds/15lb	4.7:1	5+1	£109.99	£82.00
PE1778	8000	370yds/15lb	4.7:1	5+1	£114.99	£82.00



TRONIX PRO ENVOY BEACHCASTERS

Simple, understated, highly effective and built to a stunning standard, the Envoy Beach from Tronixpro delivers a pair of versatile 13ft8 multiplier shore rods that will cover a range of UK shore angling scenarios.



SALE


Code	Length	Model	RRP	Now
TX4535	13ft 8	4-7oz	£149.99	£80.00
TX4536	13ft 8	4-8oz	£159.99	£80.00



ABU GARCIA ROCKET SURF RODS

The Rocket Surf rod from Abu Garcia delivers a high performance Surf rod at an unbelievable price. The 13ft Rocket Surf is a superb, 3 pc surf rod built around the 24T Carbon blank common to the Rocket range.

Code	Model	Len.	Casts	Pcs	RRP	Price
PU4208	Surf	13ft	4-8oz	3	£119.99	£70.00




DAIWA D-WAVE BASS COMBO

Daiwa D Wave Combos are designed to deliver an outstanding package of hardware to get you out fishing, at an unbeatable price.

Combo includes:

- D-Wave 11ft 1-3oz 2pc Rod
- D-Wave 5000B Reel with Mono

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Now
DW8113	11ft	1-3oz	2	£62.00	£45.00



Century BEACH RODS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE THE FULL RANGE!

Kompressor SS Beachcaster
A next generation sea, river and estuary rod designed primarily for fixed spool use.

Code	Length	AFTM	RRP	Now
CN0078	13ft10	4-7oz	£460.00	£402.50

Eliminator T900 Guide Rod
Features Century's STF (spread tow fabric) to improve AT-T anti-twist.

Code	Length	AFTM	RRP	Now
CN0114	14ft4	4-7oz	£595.00	£520.00



STILLWATER NOOK FOLDING DAY SHELTER

The Nook Day Shelter from Stillwater is a fantastic fishing shelter that delivers superb performance and unbeatable value.



Code	Colour	RRP	Now
RE0339	Blue	£79.99	£45.00
RE0340	Red	£79.99	£45.00



SHIMANO CATANA 13FT ROUGH GROUND ROD

The Shimano Catana range of shore rods deliver high quality performance and great value. The Catana rods are kitted out with SIC guides, Slide'N'Grip reel seats and thin rubber grip sections on powerful yet responsive XT40 carbon blanks.

Code	Length	Class	Pcs	RRP	Price
SU3932	13ft	255g	2	£199.99	£114.99



PARMARIS LIFE JACKETS

- Fully adjustable harness lifejacket, with a full 150N buoyancy, designed for adults.
- Very lightweight and comfortable to wear
- Will fit over any clothing
- Made in the UK, CE approved

Hi-Fit version pictured.

Code	Model	Now
PA0004	Auto	£64.99
PA0006	Auto Hi-Fit	£69.99



SHAKESPEARE FIREBIRD BOAT COMBOS

The Firebird Sea Combo boasts all the hardware you need to get out fishing! The 2pc 7ft rod has plenty of power and comes with a range of great features. The Firebird multiplier comes pre-spooled with 20lb mono, and is a left hand wind.

Code	Length	Casts	Pcs	RRP	Price
SP3822	7ft	20-30lb	2	£59.99	£39.99
SP3823	7ft	12-20lb	2	£68.00	£42.99

WELCOME

Sea Angler Issue 566 On sale Jan 10 – Feb 6

ANOTHER POOR BASS DEAL

Do you ever get the feeling that sea anglers get the rough end of any deal? A bass bag limit of one fish a day when we wanted three looks like a bad result to me. It seems the UK Government negotiators didn't get any support for an increase or, some might claim, didn't try hard enough.

On December 19, the Council of the European Union announced that recreational anglers would, once more, be given a bag limit of one fish per day, but extended to seven months (April 1 to October 31). That's a poor return for the efforts of our campaigners, such as the Angling Trust, Save Our Seabass, and the European Anglers Alliance (EAA), who pushed for three fish a day for seven months, as well as seeking restrictions on fixed netting to a percentage of their catches.

Based on "positive developments reflected in the scientific advice", the commercial sector got increased allowances – 5.5 tonnes per vessel for the hook-and-line fishery, to 400kg for two months for trawlers, to 210kg for seine netters, and 1.4 tonnes per year for fixed gillnets.

Indeed, the European Anglers Alliance suspects that no Member State made any real effort at the meeting to push for a three-fish bag limit for anglers because all the focus was on keeping commercial fishers happy.

An EAA spokesman said: "We had requested a bag limit of three bass during the seven open months (April 1 to October 31, 2019). That didn't happen. The commercial sector gets access to more bass."

You'd think sustainable fishing would be at the top of the agenda, but it seems not. The Commission had proposed to increase the catches for the commercial hook-and-line fishery from five to seven tonnes, but the Member States decided to redistribute some of that proposed increase to trawlers, seines and fixed gillnets, leaving the hook-and-liners with an increase to 5.5 tonnes.

LONE VOICE

The Angling Trust sees the failure to get a bag limit of three or even two bass a day, rather than one, as disappointing: "The UK Government agreed such an increase would be proportionate, and pushed hard for an increase in the bag limit, but received no support from other EU countries, as well as opposition from the EU Commission, which, contrary to the scientific estimates, argued that two fish per day would lead to a doubling in the amount of bass removed by recreational fishing.

"Bass are beginning to recover after reaching critically low levels in 2014, and although the shoots of recovery are starting to be seen, last year's measures were not as effective as hoped, and the EU Commission was very robust this year in making sure the recovery is built on, with limited additional targeted fishing in 2019."

David Mitchell, the Angling Trust's head of marine, added: "It looks like, once again, the UK was a lone voice sticking up for recreational fishing. However, as we know, in the EU process you can't achieve anything on your own. We were astonished that the Commission assumed two bass per day would increase the number of bass taken recreationally by 100 per cent when Cefas evidence clearly indicated it would lead to only a 23 per cent increase."

Pointing out that sea anglers, the most valuable economic stakeholders in the bass fishery, now have less than a 17 per cent share of the total catch, David Curtis, of Save Our Seabass, said: "So much for proportionate measures! And our Fisheries Minister and Defra have forced the EU Commission to drop their proposal, which would have stopped fixed netters illegally targeting bass – they should hang their heads in shame."

While bass campaigners fight for the cause, some people might suggest it is our Government's negotiators who should hang their heads in shame. We've been stuffed again. *Cliff Brown, editor*

HOW TO CONTACT US: EDITORIAL

Editor Cliff Brown, 01733 395123
Email: cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk

Features Editor
Paul Fenech, 01733 395146
Email: paul.fenech@bauermedia.co.uk

Editorial Assistant
Stephanie Etchells, 01733 395134
Email: stephanie.etchells@bauermedia.co.uk

Art Editor
Ricci Cox, 01733 395137
Email: ricci.cox@bauermedia.co.uk

Senior Production Editor
Peter Stebbing

Contributing Editor
Dave Lewis,
Email: david.lewis21@hotmail.com



Photographers Lloyd Rogers and Jacques Portal.

Write to: Media House, Lynchwood Business Park, Peterborough, Cambs PE2 6EA.

ADVERTISING

Commercial Director
Donna Harris
01733 395028



Key account director
Chris Challis
01733 366377



Commercial Manager
Jonathan Taylor
01733 395036



Senior Sales Executive
Jacquie Pasqualone
01733 366371



MARKETING

Marketing Manager Susan Rogers
Subscription Manager Julie Spires
Head of Newstrade Marketing Leon Bonoiton
Newstrade Marketing Manager Christine Dillon

PRODUCTION

Advert Production Controller
anglingads@bauermedia.co.uk
Print Production Andrew Stafford
Printed by Wyndeham Heron Ltd, Essex
Distributed by Frontline

H BAUER PUBLISHING

Editor-in-chief Steve Fitzpatrick
Managing Director Patrick Horton
Editorial Director June Smith-Sheppard
Head of Digital Charlie Carlton-Watson
Finance Director Lisa Hayden
Group Finance Director Sarah Vickery
Group Managing Director Rob Munro-Hall
CEO Paul Keenan

■ Sea Angler magazine is published 13 times a year by H Bauer Publishing, company number LP003328. Registered address: Academic House, 24-28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DT. No part of the magazine may be reproduced in any form in whole or in part, without the prior permission of Bauer. All material published remains the copyright of Bauer and we reserve the right to copy or edit, any material submitted to the magazine without further consent.

■ The submission of material (manuscripts or images etc) to Bauer whether unsolicited or requested, is taken as permission to publish that material in the magazine, on the associated website, any apps or social media pages affiliated to the magazine, and any editions of the magazine published by our licensees elsewhere in the world.

■ By submitting any material to us you are confirming that the material is your own original work or that you have permission from the copyright owner to use the material and to authorise Bauer to use it as described in this paragraph. You also promise that you have permission from anyone featured or referred to in the submitted material to it being used by Bauer. If Bauer receives a claim from a copyright owner or a person featured in any material you have sent us, we will inform that person that you have granted us permission to use the relevant material and you will be responsible for paying any amounts due to the copyright owner or featured person and /or for reimbursing Bauer for any losses it has suffered as a result.

■ We accept no responsibility for unsolicited material lost or damaged in the post and do not promise that we will be able to return any material to you. While we try to ensure accuracy of your material when we publish it, we cannot promise to do so. We do not accept responsibility for any loss or damage, however caused, resulting from use of the material as described here.

■ COMPLAINTS: H Bauer Publishing is a member of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (www.ipso.co.uk) and endeavours to respond to and resolve your concerns quickly. Our Editorial Complaints Policy (including full details of how to contact us about editorial complaints and IPSO's contact details) can be found at www.bauermediacomplaints.co.uk. Our email address for editorial complaints covered by the Editorial Complaints Policy is complaints@bauermedia.co.uk.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BACK ISSUES

■ To ensure that you don't miss an issue and for the best subscription offers, visit www.greatmagazines.co.uk
■ For subscription or back issue queries please contact CDS Global on Bauer@subscription.co.uk
Phone from the UK or overseas 01858 438884.





10

SHORE ANGLER

6 RODS BEND AT SELSEY

On the road for an undulate ray.

10 SUFFOLK ADVENTURE

Catching winter dabs at Aldeburgh.

14 PATHWAY TO HUSS

Hitting the bull's eye in West Wales.

EUROPEAN OPEN SPECIAL

18 THE SPECIAL ONE

Andy Webb gives a flavour of the big event.

EUROPEAN OPEN SPECIAL

22 THE HOTSPOTS

Matt Hope's guide to places to fish.

26 SENSITIVITY TRAINING

Scaling up – where LRF meets HRF.

YOUR FISHING

32 NEWS

Your round-up of catches and stories.

34 SHIMANO MISSION

Your latest badge-winning catches.

113 TIME MACHINE

A look back through our archives.

38 YOUNG RODS

Success stories from our younger readers.

38



CONTENTS

Sea Angler Issue 566 On sale Jan 10 – Feb 6



www.facebook.com/seaanglermag
@TheSeaAngler



Instagram
@seaanglermag



42



Subscribe today
and save 41%

PAGE 30

BOAT ANGLER

42 THE MOST VALUABLE COD

One fish and a whole load of cash.

46 LURE FISHING

Part 5 – catch wrasse on soft plastics.

50 FISHING WITH BARHAM

How dabs can be winter session savers.

NEW SERIES

54 HANDLING SELF-DRIVE BOATS

How to get the best from a hire vessel.

58 STRAIT AND NARROW

Great boat sport in a famous waterway.

62 PORT SPOTLIGHT

The focus turns on Lowestoft.

64 HARD WON COD

Mark Crame searches out Suffolk's fish.

SEA SCHOOL

68 START SHORE FISHING

Are you wearing the right gear?

71 READER OFFER

Rod, reel and wallet of rigs for £99.99.

72 CASTING

Tricks to reduce line twist.

73 KNOW YOUR RIGS

How to hook Fiiish Black Minnows.

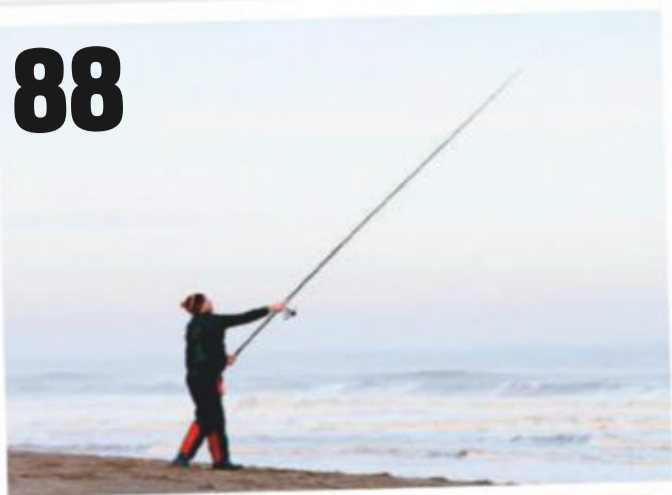
74 KNOWLEDGE

The spotlight falls on the cuckoo wrasse.

76 Q&A

Nine pages of expert answers.

88



TACKLE

86 FIRST LOOK

The newest gear in the tackle shops.

88 PILE ON THE POWER

Check on a superb three-piece shore rod.

92 LATEST BUY

Anglers reveal their latest purchases.

94 TOP 5 SOFT PLASTICS

Henry Gilbey's bass fishing selection.

98 WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

Verdict on the Westport Marine Sport 4.

101 BOAT STORE

Preview of new boating products.

REGULARS

104 LETTERS

Your say on the hot topics.

106 MATCH OF THE MONTH

It's a team game at the big final.

110 PENN SEA LEAGUE

Latest results from our shore contest.

112 FIXTURES

Plan your next open competition.

113 BASS

How to ensure happy returns.

114 LAST WORD

A strange choice of fish supper.

114 TIDES

High water for January and February.

14 Tracking down double-figure huss in Wales.



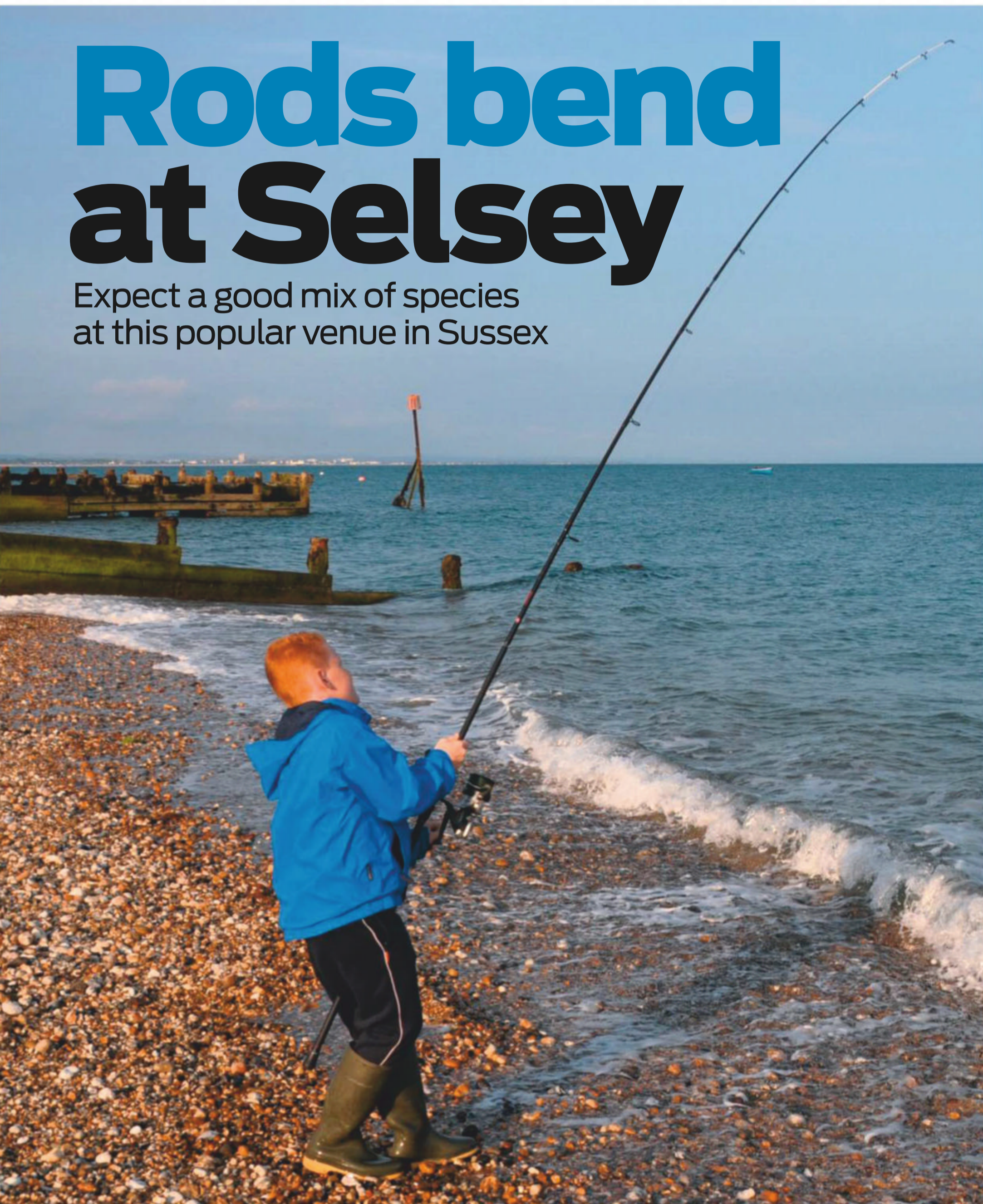
114





Rods bend at Selsey

Expect a good mix of species
at this popular venue in Sussex





EVEN WHILE BATTLING THROUGH the traffic on the M27, which can be total madness and often resembles a giant car park, the adrenalin was still flowing as I headed to the east on a fishing road trip.

For a change, I was travelling alone, although I would be meeting with Brendon Moon, Darren Dixon and his nine-year-old son Bradley at East Selsey, a venue that I had fished on a few occasions, mainly during the winter.

Quality bait is certainly one of the key elements in any successful road trip; it is never worth skimping. On route I stopped off at Allan's Marine, in Portsmouth, to collect a variety of baits including large sandeels, squid, mackerel and ragworms.

With all my booty in the cool box, it was back behind the wheel for the final stage of the journey.

Locating the East Selsey section is pretty simple. As you enter the outskirts of Selsey there is a large roundabout with one of the turnings clearly signed for East Selsey. Our target area was directly in front of the skateboard park, where there is a large pay and display car park behind the favoured fishing section. It was the free roadside parking that grabbed my attention because it was only 200 metres from the fishing area. ▶



Bradley Dixon is happy with this black bream

***“Even in the depths of winter you
can land a codling on one cast and
ten minutes later be battling
a hefty undulate”***



Darren with his
undulate ray

TOP TACTICS

I arrived half-an-hour ahead of the rest of the lads, which gave me time to get my gear sorted. When out with the camera, I hate rushing around at the last minute.

Having fished East Selsey a few times in the past, I had a good idea how to tackle the venue, thanks to my previous sorties in the depths of winter when I had caught cod, dogfish and pouting. This time, I sought a different target species.

East Selsey is one of those venues that can produce almost anything. Even in the depths of winter you can land a codling on one cast and then 10 minutes later be battling with a hefty undulate, spotted or thornback ray.

A flood tide is favoured along this stretch, with most of the smaller species taken from between 10 and 40 yards, while cod, dogfish, rays and congers normally show between 40 and 70 yards. If you cast too far, you will snag the boat mornings, which are clearly visible.

There will be a moderate left to right tidal pull, which really kicks off about an hour before high water. Weed can also be a nuisance, especially on bigger tides, while marauding crabs might strip baits within minutes when they are present in numbers.

Avoid the really big tides, but 5oz-6oz grip weights will still be required when it pulls from left to right. This is not a casting venue, with the maximum cast needed being around 70 yards. Shorter casts will be a bonus.

This is a venue where a traditional line is recommended because it can be snaggy in places. I used Daiwa Sensor 18lb mainline, along with a 50lb shockleader tied with a bimini twist, which is my favourite when fishing over the semi-rough ground.

EARLY ACTION

Initially, I would be fishing at close range before switching over to the heavy gear once darkness had descended. While waiting for the others to arrive, I just flipped a light trace out 15 yards with two hooks baited with ragworms. I was caught completely off guard as the rod tip immediately showed signs of life. The interest turned out to be from a brace of corkwing wrasse, followed by a small ballan on my second cast, and then a school

bass just as Bradley and Darren arrived.

Young Bradley couldn't wait to get a bait in the water, and five minutes later he was beaming from ear to ear holding aloft a good ballan wrasse for this stretch of coastline, where a two-pounder would be considered an exceptional fish.

Talk about one keen youngster, Bradley certainly looks to have a great future within angling, and later in the evening he managed to land a small black bream.

While Bradley was showing us how it should be done, Brendon Moon arrived. Soon we were landing plenty of micro bream, corkwing and ballan wrasse, along with a fair number of schoolies, but it was Darren who was the first to get stuck into a better bream that took a squid bait on a size 2 hook.

With the light fading, it was my turn to get among the bream by beaching several reasonable fish, but not the real monsters that this venue can produce at times, especially in the warmer months.

IN THE DARK

As the final rays of sunlight were disappearing over the horizon it was time to up-tackle ready for the big fish, with both undulate rays and congers on the target list. I opted for a Pennell rig with size 3/0 hooks, while Brendon and Darren were using size 4/0 hooks along with big mackerel, Bluey or squids baits.

With the tide just starting to pull from left to right, we were hopeful of a few fish, and, minutes later, one of my rods started to show signs of life. The culprit turned out to be one of the biggest scad I had seen for a long time and it had managed to swallow a size 3/0 Pennell along with a big mackerel bait.

Shortly after landing the scad, Brendon was into his first fish. By the time I clambered over the groyne with the camera he was beaching a small strap conger. A tad smaller than expected, at least it was one target species nailed.

Darren, who was fishing in the next groyne with his lad, had already missed one good pull-down bite that looked very much like a ray.

I was thinking of calling time when Bradley came rushing over to tell me his dad was into a decent fish. After another dash (well, a waddle



A strap conger for Brendon Moon

really) I arrived as Darren was playing tug of war with a hefty undulate ray as it entered the shallows. It was a cracking-looking fish, which had taken a large mackerel/Bluey combination presented on a size 4/0 Pennell.

After a few quick pictures, it was back in the sea where it sulked in the shallows for a couple of minutes before moving off.

What a way to finish a superb session with some great company. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

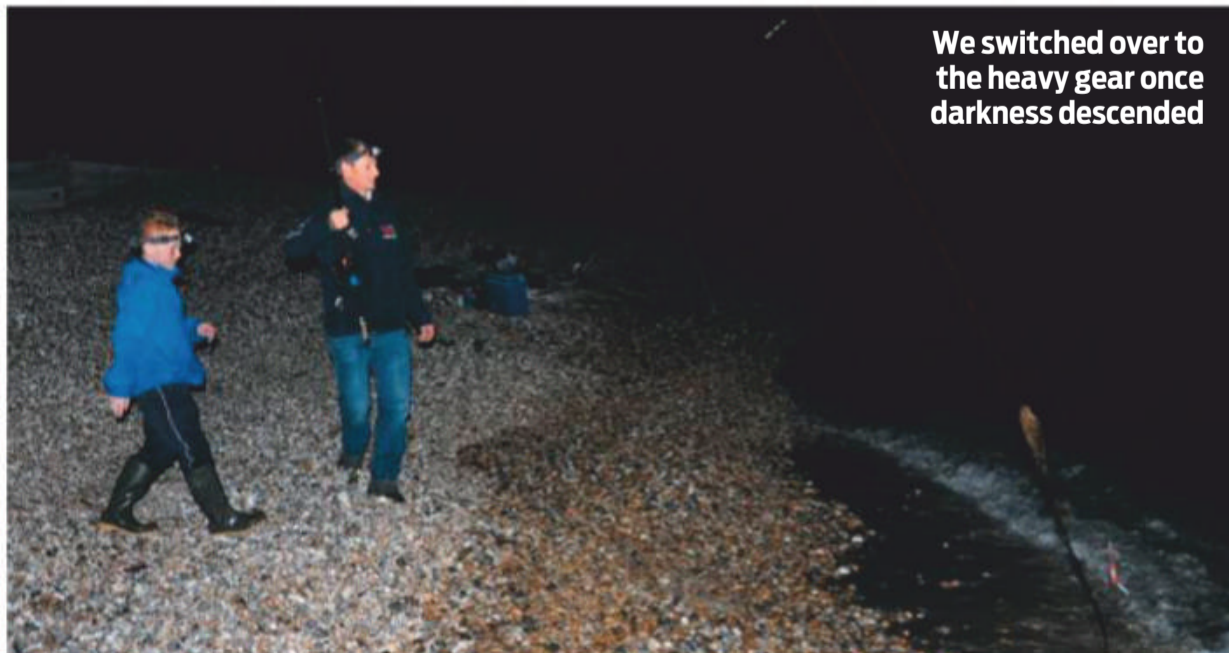
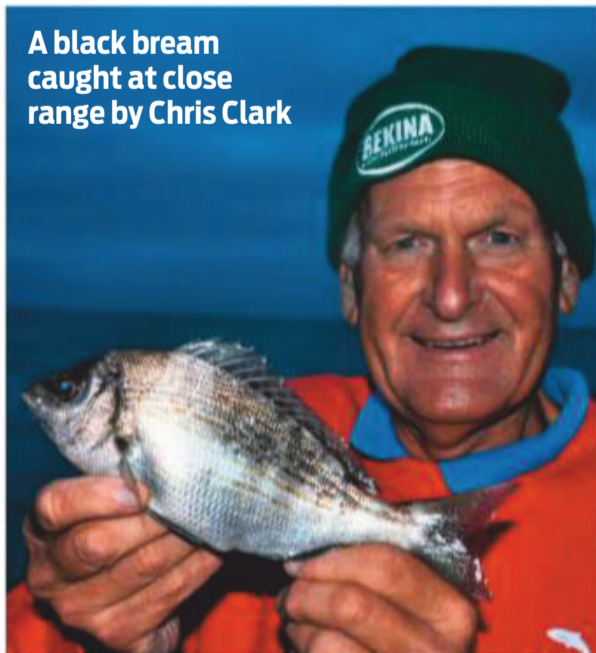
■ Take the A27 to Chichester and then the B2201 and B2145 or Selsey. Follow the signs for the East Beach, and the road will run past the skateboard park on your left before going along the seafront.



TACKLE SHOP

■ Southern Angling Supplies, 2 Stockbridge Road, Chichester PO19 8QH, tel: 01243 531669.

A black bream caught at close range by Chris Clark



We switched over to the heavy gear once darkness descended



A couple of
nice dabs and
a whiting

Aldeburgh adventure



Fishing for dabs is a popular part of winter fishing, and where better than on the Suffolk coast?

MENTION ALDEBURGH TO any East Coast angler and it will probably conjure up memories of anglers taking double-figure cod on frosty winter days. Times have changed, though, and overfishing during the late 20th Century all but put the cod stocks in jeopardy.

Without those heavyweights, there are always other fish to be caught from the Suffolk town's beaches. Even though I was very fortunate to land a 22lb cod off these deep beaches in the 1990s and some low double-figure fish as well, I'm a great believer that where there is a void (in this case far fewer cod), then other species fill that space.

It is certainly proving that way because the winter dab fishing has always been pretty good. Of course, there is still a chance of a codling or a thornback ray or two.

The dab is native to shallow seas around Northern Europe and up to the Arctic, where I have caught them up to 3lb in weight. When they get to that size they develop teeth and fight like a mini halibut.

Winter sees the dabs shoal up on our British coast, and while you won't see any three-pounders, there is always a chance of a 1lb fish and plenty of smaller pan-sized ones too.

When the winter months arrive, the plump dabs turn up in force at Aldeburgh. You'll get whiting and codling too, and there is always a chance of a very big cod. Summer produces soles, bass and some thornback rays.

THREE AREAS

I've always categorised the Aldeburgh beaches into three separate entities – the town beaches up to Thorpeness to the north, the wooden breakwaters to the Martello Tower and the famous Dirty Wall that leads to Orford Island to the south.

The further you walk along the wall the deeper the water gets. My plan was to get to Aldeburgh at first light to fish the flood tide and over the top for a couple of hours.

The alarm was set for 5am, my home town of Clacton-on-Sea to Aldeburgh is a good 90-minute drive, although I still class Aldeburgh as one of my local beaches.



Dabs really are not fussy eaters and will take most baits. It's possible to fish very cheaply and still catch fish. I took a box of squid and one of my frozen mackerel caught from Walton Pier in the late summer. Dabs will feed quite readily on lugworms that have seen better days, so all those worms that you have left over from your fishing trips are worth keeping for a dab trip.

I arrived while it was still dark and with driving rain hitting the windscreen, which really was not good news. Parking as far as I could on the wall before the locked gate, I sat and waited for daylight to appear.

The weak winter sun rose on the horizon and, at the same time, the rain stopped. With a light north-westerly breeze blowing, it looked like I could be in for a reasonable day.

The walk from the car to where I would be fishing is about 30 minutes on shingle, so I opted for a rucksack containing minimal lead weights and tackle, and carried two rods, my

tripod and beach shelter. I always have great intentions of walking further than I do. Age must be catching up with me because I never seem to make it as far as I did the last time.

TACKLE AND TACTICS

My thoughts were to fish with two rods, one my Vega Masami Continental matched with a Cinnetic Evolution 7000 fixed-spool reel for the dabs, and my old-faithful Conoflex Flik-Tip with a Daiwa 7HT as a 'sleeper rod' for the bigger fish, such as a codling or thornback ray.

The Continental style of fishing comes into its own with the smaller fish such as dabs and whiting. Bites are accentuated by the fine tips on these rod, which usually makes for an exciting experience.

My rigs for dabs are very simple. Because there is no need to cast more than 50 yards, I opt for three-hook flappers with longish hook snoods of around 12-14 inches to allow ▶

“The fast-running ebb kept my distance set-up busy with large whiting”



For the bigger fish, I fish with whole calamari squid on a Pennell pulley rig

the baits to move about enticingly in the tide. Hooks are size 2, and these are armed with small strips of mackerel tipped with thin slivers of squid.

For the bigger species, I bait with a whole calamari squid on a Pennell pulley rig with size 3/0 hooks. This rig is cast as far as possible in search of that elusive cod.

Even after all my years of fishing, I still get that butterfly feeling in my stomach after the initial cast and when sitting back in anticipation on what will happen next. It really didn't take long though.

My Continental rod showed signs of interest from what could possibly be the intended species, those plump little dabs.

There was no need to strike, just leave the rod alone, and have a cup of coffee. With three hooks fishing, it was just a case of waiting for a while. I did just that, picked up the rod and tightened up to find a nice bend in that Vega rod. A few minutes later three pristine dabs were at my feet. Could the session get any better?

CRACKING BITE

This carried on until just before high water, producing a steady stream of dabs of all sizes, but nothing showed to my distance rod. That suddenly changed with a cracking bite that took the rod tip down and saw the line fall slack. I reeled in the loose line and tightened up only to strike into absolutely nothing. We've all been there, but what did that?

The flood tide peaked and the ebb started,

In winter the plump dabs turn up in force at Aldeburgh



which resulted in more interest on my Flick-Tip because the whiting were now feeding and taking whole squid. Most were a good size. I really don't mind the bigger whiting. After all, a bite is a bite.

My day passed very quickly as they always seem to do when you are fishing. The flood had produced a multitude of dabs to my short-range Continental set-up, while the fast-running ebb kept my distance set-up busy with large whiting, so all in all it was fantastic day on the Aldeburgh coast. No cod showed, but as long as those bites keep coming, and I am catching fish, so be it. ■

Bait – a box of squid and one frozen mackerel



NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

■ Located between Lowestoft and Felixstowe, Aldeburgh is easily accessible by following the A1094 from the main A12 (Ipswich to Lowestoft road).



TACKLE SHOP

■ Aldeburgh Fishing Tackle & Bait Shop, Thorpe Rd, Aldeburgh, IP15 5BD, tel: 07855 889810.
■ Saxmundham Angling, Back of Market Place, Saxmundham, IP17 1AH, tel: 01728 603443.

Poingdestres

ANGLING CENTRE

HOOKED ON FISHING SINCE 1970

SPECIAL OFFER
ALL ORDERS OVER
£50 NOW POST FREE!

POST & PACKING



Small items
£4.00
(not guaranteed
next day)

Reels & standard
items £6.00

Rods & larger
items £8.00
2 working days

**ORDERS OVER £50
ARE POST FREE**

**INTEREST FREE
CREDIT AVAILABLE
FISH NOW! PAY LATER...**

Max term 9 months. Min monthly
payment £25. All applications are credit
scored. Ring us on 023 8051 0077 to
apply. Full details on our website

0%

finance
NO ADMINISTRATION
CHARGE

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE*
Kampa Carp AIR1 Man Inflatable
Bivvy£499.99
Delivery£0.00
Total Balance.....£499.99
Deposit.....£55.55
8 x Monthly payments of...£55.55
Charge for Credit.....£0.00
Total Amount Payable.....£499.99
RepresentativeAPR 0%

Finance is underwritten by: Poingdestres Angling Centre,
Unit 11, Southampton Trade Park, Third Avenue, Southampton, SO15 0AD.
* Payments are to be made monthly by credit / debit card. Direct debit not available.

MUSTAD LUGGAGE

**Deluxe Sea
Quiver**

NEW

**5ltr Cool
Bag**

**35ltr
Rucksack**

RUCKSACK
OUR PRICE
£34.99
rrp £49.99

QUIVER
OUR PRICE
£22.50
rrp £29.99

COOL BAG
OUR PRICE
£14.99
rrp £

IMAX 2 PIECE THERMO SUIT

OUR PRICE
£89.99
rrp £129.99

The 2 Piece Thermo Suit consists of a
jacket and separate salopettes and is
100% waterproof being made from a
heavy, strong nylon shell fabric.
Available in S, M, L, XL, or XXL sizes.

DAIWA SUPER KENZAKI BRAID SPECIAL BOAT RODS

NOW LESS THAN HALF PRICE!

The selection of top grade materials and Daiwa's
advanced blank design has allowed them to create
these incredibly light rods, each with a responsive
tip that loads into a deceptively powerful action.

2 PIECE
OUR PRICE
£74.99
rrp £159.99

AVAILABLE IN
2-piece
12-20lb,
30-50lb

PENN MULTIPLIER REELS



The 515 and
525 Mag 3 is
latest version of
this best
selling
multiplier
and among the
improved
features now
boasts eye
catching red
cosmetics.

515 MAG3
OUR PRICE
£99.99
rrp £169.99

525 MAG3
OUR PRICE
£111.99
rrp £179.99

DAIWA SAS MK7 2-PIECE FLOTATION SUIT



Offering superior value, the Daiwa
SAS Mk7 2 Piece Flotation Suit is
the biggest selling flotation suit in
Europe, being totally waterproof with
a 5000mm hydrostatic head rating.

OUR PRICE
£109.99
rrp £124.98

Available in M, L,
XL, XXL or XXXL sizes.

**We Can
Price
Match!**

**Found a great
price online or in
another store?**

Give us a chance to
price match call us on
02380 510077 or drop
into store.

Conditions apply call for details

PENN SURFBLASTER II 7000 / 8000 LONG CAST FIXED SPOOL REEL



**PRICE MATCH AVAILABLE
ON THESE REELS**

The upgraded new Surfblaster II 7000 and
Surfblaster II 8000 Long Cast Fixed Spool Reels are
a perfect choice for all surf casting situations over
clean or mixed rough ground. The slow oscillation
provides excellent
line lay enabling
ultra long casting
performance with
mono or braid
lines.

7000
OUR PRICE
£79.99
rrp £109.99

8000
OUR PRICE
£84.99
rrp £109.99

NEW ABU REELS

Ambassadeur C-7000 & C-7001



C-7000
OUR PRICE
£82.50
rrp £110.00

C-7001
OUR PRICE
£82.50
rrp £110.00

CROSSFLOW 2-PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

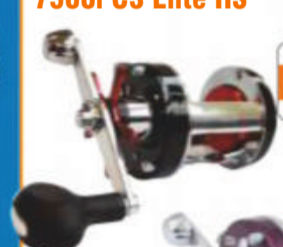
Made from a world patented
feather weight flotation foam
and is waterproof to 10000mm
hydrostatic head with 5000g m²
day breathability.

OUR PRICE
£169.99
rrp £189.99

Available in M, L,
XL, XXL or KING

ABU REELS

7500i C3 Elite HS



OUR PRICE
£89.99
rrp £134.99

6500i TSR



OUR PRICE
£224.98
rrp £299.98

6500CT Premium Mag Elite



OUR PRICE
£157.49
rrp £209.99

6500 CT Mag Hi Speed



OUR PRICE
£157.49
rrp £209.99

SHAKESPEARE AGILITY RODS

The Agility 2 Surf Rod range incorporates models to suit all
types of beach conditions and fixed spool or multiplier options.

12FT9 FS OUR PRICE £58.49 rrp £89.99	12FT9 MULTI OUR PRICE £71.49 rrp £89.99	13FT6 MULTI OUR PRICE £68.24 rrp £89.99
--	---	---

Agility 2 Continental Surf Rods

The Agility 2 Continental Surf Rods
are designed on the longer European
style rods used for ultra long
distance casting.

13, 14 & 15FT
OUR PRICE
£61.74
rrp £94.99

6-12, 12-20 & 20-30LB OUR PRICE £38.99 rrp £59.99	Agility 2 Braid Boat Rods Lightweight, fast actioned, powerful blanks offering maximum bite detection when fishing over clean and mixed ground or working lures over reefs and inshore wrecks.
--	---

Agility 2 Boat Rods

The Agility 2 Boat Rods feature a supple
tip for great bite detection but power
transfers easily to the mid-section and
butt to a lock up point for bulking large
fish when necessary.

20LB & 30LB
OUR PRICE
£27.99
rrp £34.99

Agility 2 Expedition Boat Rods

12LB-20LB OUR PRICE £42.24 rrp £64.99	20LB-30LB OUR PRICE £45.49 rrp £64.99	20LB-50LB OUR PRICE £45.49 rrp £64.99
---	---	---

Agility 2 Bass Rod

The 11ft 6" Agility 2 Bass Rod is
designed around a high grade carbon
blank that allows the rod to be held for
long periods of time.

11FT6
OUR PRICE
£48.74
rrp £74.99

Agility 2 Uptide Rod

The 9ft 6" Agility 2 Uptide Rod is more
than capable of casting big weights and
baits away from the boat while retaining
good bite indication.

9FT 6
OUR PRICE
£51.99
rrp £79.99

VASS-TEX CHEST WADERS

**700E NOVA HEAVY
DUTY PVC
CHEST WADERS**



OUR PRICE
£76.99

OUR PRICE
£54.99

NEW

SHAKESPEARE K2 BLACK EXTREME TWIN TIP SURF ROD

K2 Black Extreme Twin Tip Surf
Rods are unrivalled casting
machines with twin tip options
designed specially for long
distance casting.

OUR PRICE
£139.99
rrp £189.99

NEW

NEW CENTURY GRAPHX RODS

MATCH OUR PRICE £485.00 rrp £555.00	SUPER MATCH OUR PRICE £499.00 rrp £570.00	SPORT OUR PRICE £520.00 rrp £595.00
---	---	---

Century

**ALL NEW CENTURY NOW
COME WITH NEW FUJI
TITANIUM K GUIDES
FACTORY BUILT**

CENTURY KOMPRESSOR S
(RRP £452.00)
O/P £395.50

CENTURY KOMPRESSOR SS
(RRP £460.00)
£402.50

CENTURY TIP TORNADO LD
(RRP £412.00)
£360.00

CENTURY TT SPORT
(RRP £460.00)
£402.50

CENTURY TT MATCH
(RRP £450.00)
£393.50

CENTURY TT SUPER MATCH
(RRP £457.50)
£400.00

Century

**FINANCE AND
PRICE MATCH AVAILABLE
CALL 023 8051 0077
FOR DETAILS**

ICON TWIN HEAD TRIPOD BEACH REST



- Strong and lightweight
aluminium construction
- Black finish paint work
- Rubber coated non-scratch
rod rests
- Fully adjustable butt cups for
increased height
- Leg retention
system for
transport and
storage

OUR PRICE
£26.99
rrp £29.99

DAIWA SEALINE 'SLOSH' MULTIPLIER REEL



A no nonsense, top-
drawer performer boasting
powerful, high-speed
gearing it is excellent for
all shore work.

'SLOSH' 20
OUR PRICE
£69.99
rrp £150.00

'SLOSH' 30
OUR PRICE
£69.99
rrp £150.00

SHAKESPEARE AGILITY SURF 80 FIXED SPOOL REEL

The Agility Surf 80
offers fantastic value for
money with a total of
eight bearings, anodized
aluminium spool and
corrosion resistant body.

OUR PRICE
£39.99
rrp £59.99



IMAX CLOTHING



THERMO JACKET
OUR PRICE
£44.99
rrp £69.99

THERMO SMOCK
OUR PRICE
£42.50
rrp £69.99

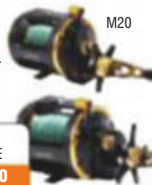
BIB N BRACE
OUR PRICE
£52.50
rrp £79.99

LEEDA ICON MULTIPLIER M20 & M30 REELS

The Icon M20 & M30 is
designed to complement
the Leeda ICON saltwater
rods and features saltwater
resistant parts to ensure
longevity of your tackle.

ICON M20
OUR PRICE
£42.50

ICON M30
OUR PRICE
£42.50



VASS TEAM 175 WINTER JACKET

The Team Vass 175 Winter Jacket is
based on the incredibly successful
175 Winter Smock and features
several improved features.

Available in M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

OUR PRICE
£99.99
rrp £109.99



**5 MINS
J3 M27**

**6000SQ.FT
SHOWROOM**

Poingdestres
ANGLING CENTRE

UNIT 11, SOUTHAMPTON TRADE PARK, THIRD AVENUE, SOUTHAMPTON, SO15 0AD

**CALL THE ORDER HOTLINE 02380 510077
OR VISIT POINGDESTRES.CO.UK**

FAX: 02380 773841

find us on facebook.com/Poingdestres



Pathway to huss

How to tackle double-figure fish from the shore... using to the coastal rope trick



Martin Roberts (left) and Dan James survey the situation

WHEN ONE OF THE FIRST items of equipment out of the back of the car at the start of a shore fishing session is a stout length of rope, you can be sure that you are setting off on an experience likely to be a tad different to the norm.

This was the case one afternoon towards the end of November when Martin Thompson hoisted his tackle rucksack on to his back and, with one hand, grabbed his rods and rod-rest, along with a substantial coil of rope with the other. Next, he took us down a narrow track that eventually led us the Pembrokeshire Coast Path.

Throughout the week Martin and Sandra Thompson run their busy tackle and bait shop, Anglers Corner, in Milford Haven, but on Sunday afternoons, and occasionally after work during the week, they go fishing. I've fished with Martin and Sandra on numerous occasions, mostly during the summer when we have targeted species such as pollack and wrasse. During these trips Martin has often told me about the wonderful fishing that is available throughout the darkest and coldest months of winter in the same area, and finally this winter an opportunity came along to join them on a session.

I met up with Martin and Sandra and two friends, Dan James and Martin Roberts, just outside St David's, from where a short drive took us to a barely drivable track that provided convenient access to the Pembrokeshire

Coastal Path. The path flanks the coast throughout the entire principality, and in the south-west corner of Wales provides anglers with superb, though not always easy, access to many productive marks.

Following a 20-minute trek along the cliff tops, we arrived at a spot several hundred feet above a series of comfortable rock ledges. The rope was securely tied off to a steel spike Martin had secured into the ground here many years ago, and the tail was thrown down the slope. It was a bit of a scramble, although not an especially difficult descent down to the water's edge, from where you could see you had arrived at one of those marks that you just knew offered good fishing. Getting back to the cliff top path at the end of the session would be a different story.

KEY TIME

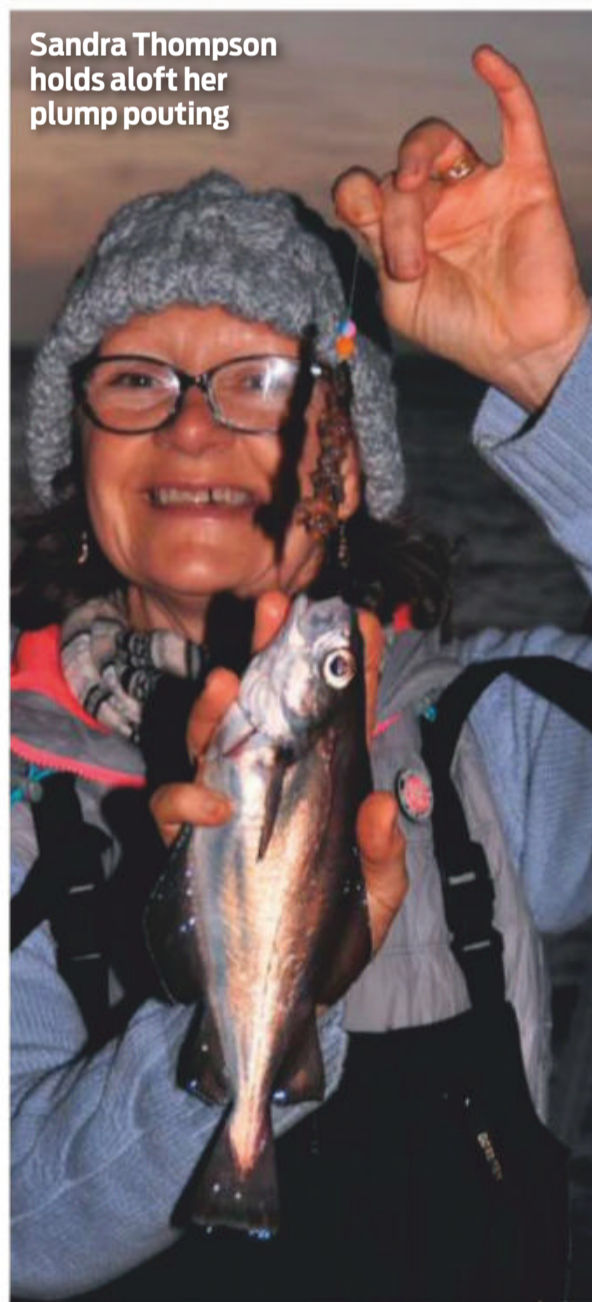
During the winter the area is noted for producing lots of specimen bull huss, along with conger eels and even tope and shore-caught rarities such as ling.

In the past Martin has landed tope here to over 40lb, and his biggest was caught in January. He was extremely confident we would catch huss and congers, admitting tope are, at best, hit or miss.

The optimum time to fish from the rocks in this area is a couple of hours either side of low water, on almost any size of tide, especially during darkness. The key time for huss and most other species was, said Martin, low-water slack and during the first push of flood.

We had arrived in daylight in order to ►

Sandra Thompson holds aloft her plump pouting



safely access the chosen mark, and get settled into the fishing before the anticipated prime time that we had calculated would be about an hour after sunset.

Many, if not most, of the marks in this area are only accessed following a steep descent from the cliff tops, and it is not a good idea to attempt this during darkness, especially if it is your first visit to a particular spot. Never fish here alone, and consider wearing a life jacket or flotation suit. We didn't, we should have!

The three lads baited up Pennell pulley rigs with cuts of either mackerel or squid, or herring freshly caught from nearby Milford Haven. These baits were cast a relatively short distance out into the deep water directly in front of us. Clearly, this is mostly rough ground, so lead weights attached via a rotten-bottom rig are essential. Sandra opted for a more general approach by fishing a two-hook paternoster rig baited with ragworms and squid, and within no time at all she was holding a plump pouting in front of my camera. She quickly followed this with the first of several dogfish and a strap conger.

Martin Roberts hooked the first sizeable fish of the session – a solid double-figure huss that spat the hook, as this species is so prone to doing, just as Martin was preparing to grab the leader and lift it ashore. I think I was as disappointed as he was when that first big fish came off, a lost photo opportunity, but Martin reassured me we would catch more, and of course he was right.

STUNNING DOUBLE

Half-an-hour later, following a brief period of slack tide over low water, the flooding tide started to push along the coast. It was the prime bite time for huss. Barely 10 minutes later, the tip of Dan James's rod nodded once or twice then steadily bent over as what clearly was a sizeable fish moved off with his bait. Dan grabbed the rod, reeled the line tight, and firmly set the hook by lifting the rod. Once again Martin climbed down to land the fish, which this time remained hooked, a solid, near double-figure bull huss.

Next to land a huss was Martin Thompson, a stunning double-figure bull huss. Caught from a boat, bull huss can hardly be described in any way as being a sporting species of fish, but when hooked from the shore, well, that is a different matter. Certainly, they're a worthy target species for any angler looking to catch a double-figure fish from the rocks and, let's be honest, there are not too many sizeable species that UK-based shore anglers can target with such a high probability of success.

During the next hour or so we landed three more huss, all big fish weighing between 8-12lb.

Variety came with the addition of more strap congers and, of course, dogfish ensured that everyone was kept on their toes.

That night the tope failed to show, but several anglers Martin knows had reported catching fish in the 30-40lb range during the days leading up to our trip.

I guess it'll only be a matter of time before, once again, I am sliding down a length of rope off the coast of Pembrokeshire. ■



Sandra bagged this strap conger...



... using a two-hook paternoster rig baited with ragworms and squid



Dan James with his near double-figure bull huss

Baits used were cuts of either mackerel, squid or herring



NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

■ For the area we fished, drive into St David's and follow the signs for Whitesands Bay. Head out on the coastal path until you find an accessible spot to access the shoreline. For more specific information on mark location here and elsewhere throughout Pembrokeshire, contact either Martin or Sandra at their shop (details below).



TACKLE SHOP

■ Anglers Corner, 1 Pill Road, Milford Haven SA73 2NS, tel: 01646 698899. Open seven days a week, with Sunday being a half-day opening.

Martin Thompson with his stunning double-figure specimen bull huss



WINTER RANGE

HEAVY DUTY TEAM VASS 350 WINTER LINED RANGE

Heavy Duty extremely waterproof!



TEAM VASS 175 WINTER LINED RANGE

Lightweight Waterproof, windproof & breathable
Available in Red/Black & Grey/Black

VASS R-BOOTS FIXED FUR LINING

non studded or studded sole



VASS FLEECE LINED BOOTS

VASS DRY RUCK SACK EDITION 2



WWW.VASS-TEX.COM

VASS PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE FROM LEADING TACKLE DEALERS



Search 'Vass Waders and Rainwear'



THE *special* ONE

The only place to be this February is on the Holderness Coast for the next instalment of Britain's biggest fishing match

AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, sometimes the first three months of the new year can be a slow period for sea anglers, but there's an event that really draws the crowds – the European Open Beach Championship.

This match is a three-day event that starts with a Flattie Bash on the Friday, and is followed by the two days of the main competition, where the target fish are mainly cod, thornback rays and whiting.

Set up by the late Paul Roggeman in 1994, it was part of his job to attract visitors to East Yorkshire by hosting events. Being a keen angler, Paul saw an opportunity outside

the main summer season, and the event was a success from the start, with the first championship attracting more than 200 anglers to the Holderness Coast.

Over the years the event went from strength to strength and now more than 1,000 anglers regularly take part.

After Paul passed away in 2015, the event was renamed in his honour as the Paul Roggeman European Open Beach Championship.

Soon it will be the 26th event, which is fished between Bridlington North Beach and Spurn Point pilot jetty. It had to be cancelled one year due to an outbreak of Foot & Mouth.

For the 2019 championship, the £35,000 prize fund includes a £4,000 first prize for the winner of each of the two days.





Filming the Vass
stand on the
opening day



A Flattie Bash
opens the event



Pairs winners
Dave Medd
and Paul Medd
with Tezina
Roggeman

**“The £35,000
prize fund
includes a £4,000
first prize for the
winner of each of
the two days”**



ALL SORTED

I'll be there in February 2019, but my involvement started in 2018. Out of the blue, I had a phone call in early January last year (2018) from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council events team, asking if Sea Angling Adventures (SAA) could film the match. I wanted to do it justice, so I had a busy couple of weeks planning and getting ready.

Soon the day to travel up to Yorkshire from Devon had come. Excited, I left my home in Teignmouth at 6.30am and my first stop was to meet SAA's Wayne Jarman near Minehead. Eventually, we reached the event headquarters, Sand le Mere Holiday Village in Tunstall, at around 2pm.

Something I really like about the event is that everything is sorted for you. Your accommodation and ticket entry are all

"Scent seemed to be the key in this dark, murky water"

linked, which saves the hassle of having to sort things for yourself. After booking in at reception we headed off to our caravan. Looking out as the snow started to fall, it was about to be a cold week.

Next morning, I sorted out the camera gear ready for the day's filming. After SAA's Richard Allbones joined us, the plan was to head to Hull Angling Centre to film a piece with the staff about the event and then drive further up the coast to meet with Paul's wife, Tezina, for an interview about the history of the event.

That evening we got together with local angler Lee Smith to cover some information on the local angling scene.

Back at the caravan, we were joined by SAA's James Davies Cooke, who had travelled from North Wales. James, Wayne and Richard headed out to test the fishing at Tunstall for a few hours, while I prepared for an interview with the manager at Sand le Mere. After that, I joined them at the beach, where Richard and Wayne had caught a few whiting, but JDC had done better with a couple of cod and a flounder.

We all headed back to the events hall to get together with Rachael Pepper, the general manager at Sand le Mere, to cover their part in the event. With all the filming done for the day, it was time to head back to the caravan ready for the Thursday night outing to the clubhouse. It's always nice to meet up with the readers of Sea Angler magazine and viewers of Sea Angling Adventures. We also filmed an interview with Will Hall, who has stepped into the role of event organiser.

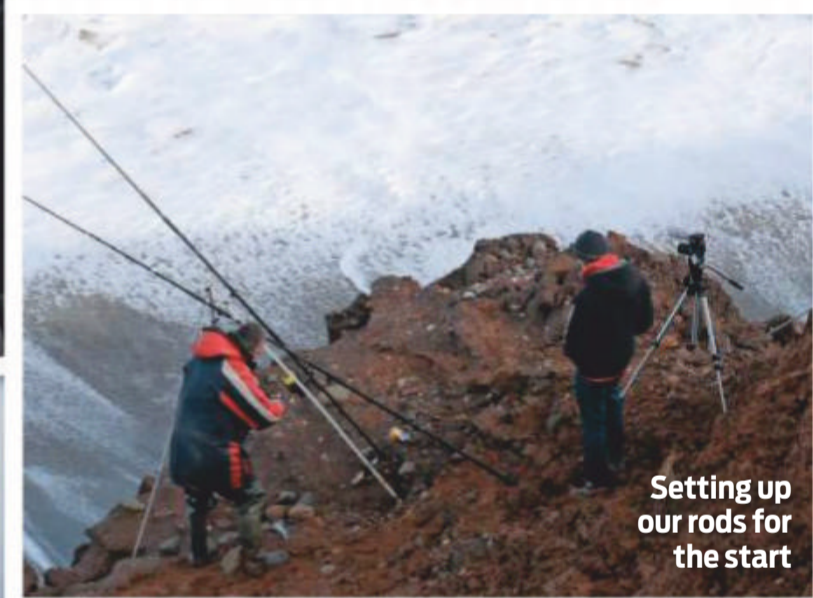
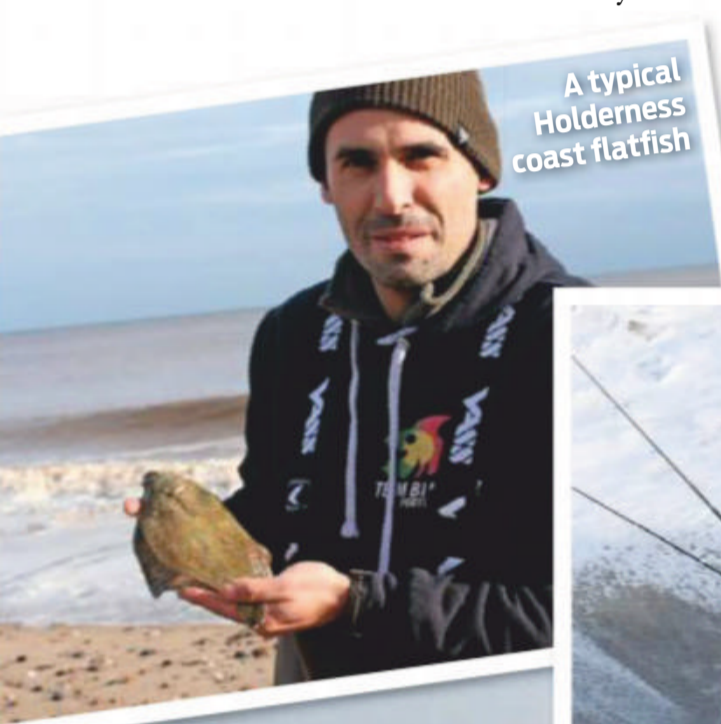
FLATTIE BASH

The Flattie Bash is a warm-up to the two-day main event and fished as a measure-and-release contest. The winner is the angler with the highest combined measurement.

Being ready for the draw at 8am, it gave us two hours to decide where to fish. We decided to go to the left side of Hornsea beach where we found some local anglers, along with Mike Coombe and Rob, from Seacast Fishing Weights, and two Portuguese lads to our right.

At 10am the whistle went. Wayne and I chose smaller black lug baits on two-hook flapper rigs. Within minutes one of the Portuguese lads caught a dab. After a bit of filming, it was James Atkinson and his team further up the coast in a different zone who reported catches of dabs to 26cm. Meanwhile, Andy Pearce's team were walking the coast interviewing anglers.

By now the guys around me were all



catching well, including multiples of dabs every cast, with black lug baits tipped off with a piece of Bluey doing really well. Scent seemed to be the key in this dark, murky water.

After a lot of running around on the beach, I finally found enough time to reel in, which resulted in a small whiting. The lads were all into dabs throughout the day, and there was a cracking flounder caught by Mike Coombe.

With the match over, we all headed back to Sand le Mer to get ready for the evening's awards, where we were greeted by Chris Hvass from Vass, who had a stand at the event. It was an amazing atmosphere, with a real buzz about the next two days.

DAY ONE

For the first day of the main event, which attracted 1,200 anglers, my team headed off to the entrance to Sand le Mere to meet local angler Lee Smith and then drove to Out Newton. After a walk along the cliff tops and a short climb down to the beach, we set up our rods and got our baits ready for the 9am start. High water was due at 1pm.

I chose a running up-and-over rig, which I find produces a better hook-hold – I didn't want to risk losing a fish. We had to put the baits out as far as we could to get the them into the deeper water.

After an hour or so, I was into my first fish, an undersized whiting. Wayne followed with an undersized codling. Around midday we had a spell of light snow and then the sun came out. Word around the mark was that there was something bigger caught further back up the beach, but I'd seen nothing to trouble the scales.

Back at the weigh-in, I looked forward to seeing what the rest of the anglers had caught. First place for the day with 4.630kg went to top local rod Paul Medd, who is from

Scarborough, and who, with his dad, Dave, won the pairs.

Mike Brown, of Southampton, and Martin Booth, of Hartlepool, were second and third on the day.

DAY TWO

Next day it was really windy as we interviewed anglers all along the coastline. By midday there did not seem to be many big fish showing, just small whiting and small codling.

The busy venues were those where the wind was blowing from behind the anglers out to sea. The SAA fishing team went down towards Kilnsea and were not catching much in the strong tide that produced a lot of weed. However, it seemed there were more anglers weighing in fish afterwards than had done so the previous day.

The second day was won by Craig Capell, of Hull, with 3.075kg, followed by Chris Fisher, of Aldbrough, and Jeff Taylor, of North Frodingham. The team of four prize went to Ben Laws, Andrew Cass, Matthew Garbutt and Paul Garbutt.

It was Paul Medd who was the man of the moment, taking the overall prize with his

Andy reeled in a small whiting



The European Open Beach Champs trophy

Winner Paul Medd with his 4.630kg cod



two-day total of 5.765kg. It was a great achievement for Paul because he has fished the competition every year and had won one of the days of the event a couple of times, but not the overall title.

Jeff Taylor and Chris Fisher were second and third overall with 3.590kg and 3.405kg respectively.

The following morning I headed back to Devon with Wayne after a great time away.

The competition is a very special event, which brings together anglers from far and wide. Even if the fishing does not play ball every time, the laughs and atmosphere make it magical. I look forward to seeing you all again in February. ■

NEXT PAGE: WHERE TO FISH...





Holderness hotspots

Four easy-access areas to fish on the East Yorkshire coast

WITH ITS HUGE PRIZE fund of £35,000, the annual European Open Beach Championship, which takes place on the Holderness Coast of East Yorkshire, attracts more than 1,000 anglers from across the UK and Europe. The match is fished between Bridlington North Beach and Spurn Point pilot jetty.

Living in the area, I have competed in the big event and also fish this coastline on a regular basis. Here's my guide to some venues to consider fishing in the roving event or, if you are not taking part, to visit this winter.

I've chosen some places with easier access because I don't want to send people on long hikes or difficult-to-access areas.

ALDBROUGH

Located 10km south east of Hornsea, there are a couple of well-known marks here – Aldbrough Dip and Aldbrough Road End.

These marks are located at either side of the Aldbrough leisure park (static caravan park), with Road End being my favourite of the two marks. Road End is Seaside Road, which terminates at the cliff edge just past the Double Dutch pub, to the side of the static caravan park.

There is parking at the end of the road for up to half-a-dozen cars if everybody parks sensibly. Make sure you don't block the driveway entrances.

A lovely cod
from Aldbrough
Road End



Aldbrough Road End

It's quite a high cliff at Aldbrough, approximately 20 metres, and there is usually a 'get down' point at the road end that's used regularly by the caravan site residents to access the beach.

As on most of the Holderness Coast, fish can be caught here at any stage of tide. I find the best period to fish is the last three hours of the flood over the top and a couple of hours down. It can be fished even on the large tides of over six metres on the Bridlington scale, and I prefer to fish on the bigger tides.

There are quite a few grass ledges that have fallen down due to the cliff erosion, and these can be fished off during the higher tides. Alternatively, there are a few spots with a straight lift, so you can fish off the cliff top. With tides under six metres, you can usually stay on the beach and fish, but always check the high water mark and plan your escape route. Don't get cut off; some very experienced anglers did so in the European Open in 2018.

From December to February, cod are my target species here. This is my go-to spot in a rough sea, and some of the best fishing I have ever experienced has been on this beach in a dying sea after a big blow.

Fish can be caught at all ranges, but I've had most success at distance, especially if there is any amount of swell still left in the sea. A cast of 100 yards or more should find fish in these conditions, but further the better, in my opinion.

I use a short Pennell pulley rig with sharp

size 4/0 hooks on hooklengths of 18-24in. Otherwise, I go for any clipped-down rig for distance. For bait, go for yellowtail lug or black lug or cocktails of worms and squid.

My first cod of last season came from here. We decided to move after fishing Bridlington North Beach, where we'd gone for shelter from the north-easterly wind and swell, but after two-and-a-half hours without a bite, I suggested we moved to Aldbrough.

We arrived at top of tide and the sea was bigger than I expected. My mate Lee dropped down on to a ledge on the get down at the road end, while I fished the cliff top to the left. I wasn't expecting anything because I thought the sea was too big, and with the strength of the wind I didn't think we'd get out far enough to catch.

The first half-an-hour produced nothing. The tide had turned and I'd just put out fresh bait when I had a big pull-down on the rod tip. I waited, but nothing happened, so I gave it about five minutes before reeling in and baiting up again. I put it back out as far as I could manage and it didn't take long for my rod tip to give a good nod, then nod, and nod again. After a good scrap in the surf, I hauled up my first cod of the season.

We only fished it a couple of hours down due to the surf really picking up the shallower it was getting, but I caught a few whiting and a small bass. I fished Aldbrough Road End on the Sunday in last year's European Open and had one cod and a few whiting and lost a cod that got snagged. ▶



WITHERNSEA TOWN CENTRE

Often overlooked by many anglers, this is a venue where distance casting can be the key. You need to get your bait out past the breakwaters that run along the seafront to find some tide pull. This is where you'll find the better stamp of fish.

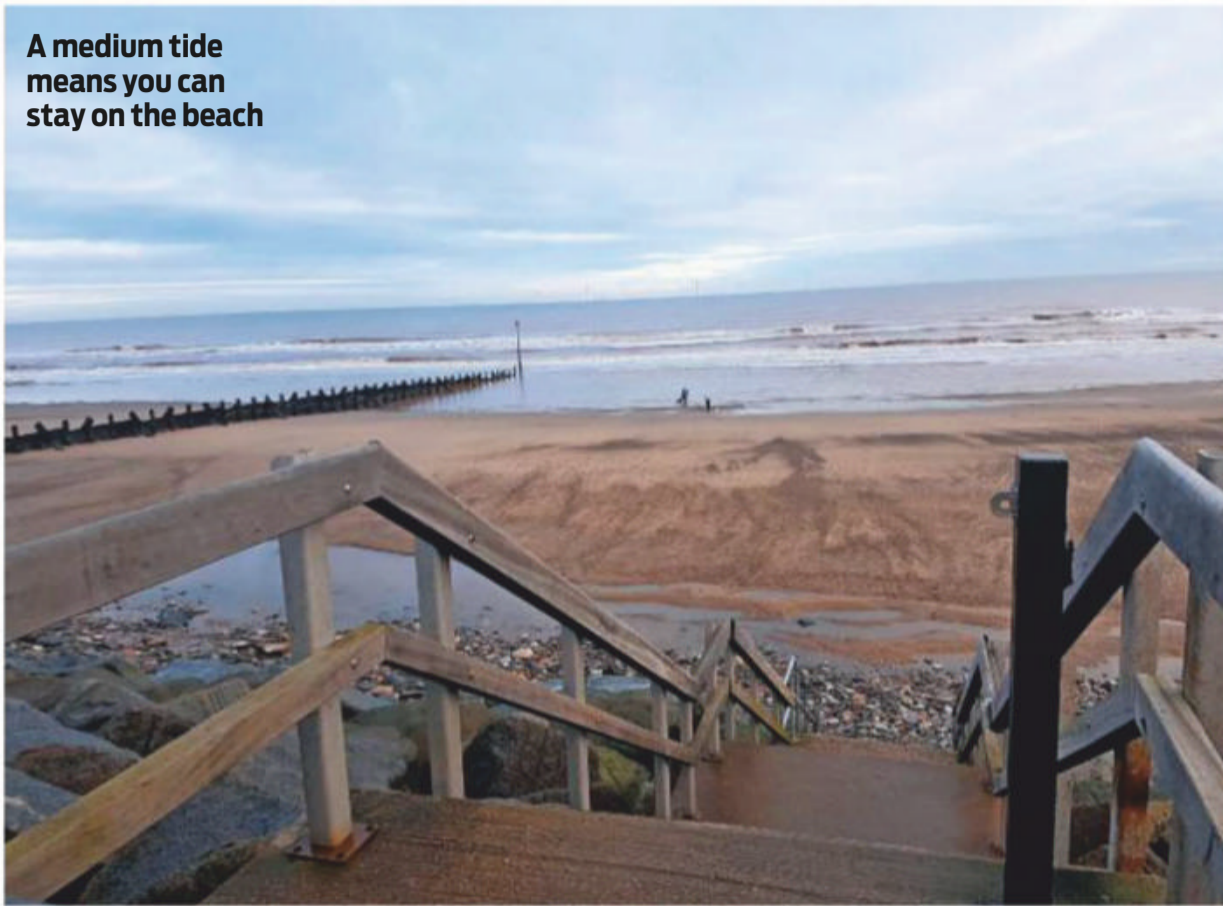
It's worth having a look here at low water on the big tides to see which groynes have the better holes and gullies. The final breakwater to the north has the last set of steps and always seems to have a good gully year after year. This area is located as you leave the town towards Waxholme, with parking on the side of the road next to the playing field.

Other good marks in Withernsea are the slipway at the lifeboat station and the brick pond to the south of the town, while the area between the groynes can have some steeper areas.

Whiting can be a nuisance on the Holderness Coast when targeting cod, particularly during a flat calm frosty night at Withernsea. These whiting can be a nightmare because they are on your bait in seconds.

There is good parking, but check all signposting first. There is a free car park situated on Lee Avenue to the south of the

A medium tide means you can stay on the beach



town and easy access to the beach via steps.

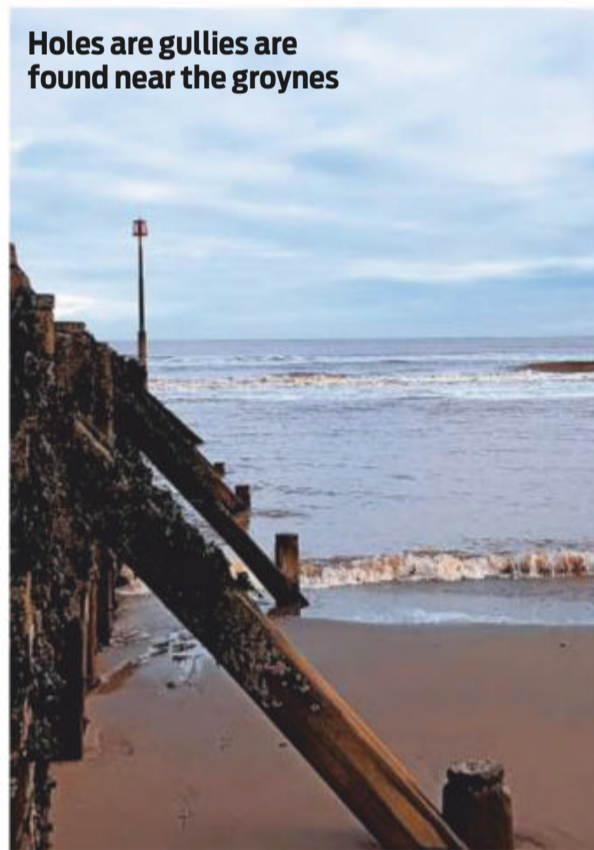
I like a medium tide, so I can stay on the beach, but you can fish off the steps or

promenade on the big tides. Bait is available in the town's tackle shop, but pre-order your worms.

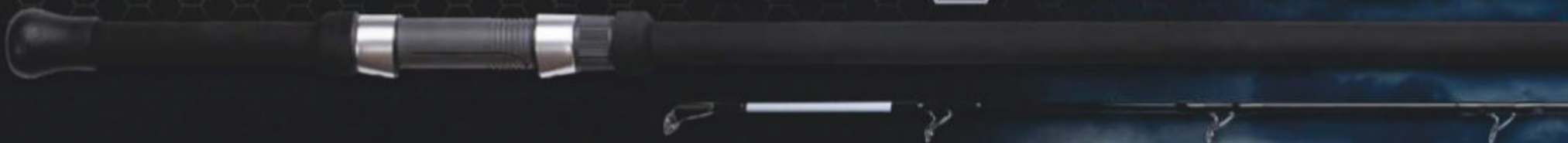
There is easy access to the beach



Holes are gullies are found near the groynes








TIP TORNADO GRAPHEX



The 3rd generation of TIP TORNADO GRAPHEX rods captures the best of the past and brings new and defined benefits in manufacturing and material technology.

The advanced Graphex technology benefits the rods performance; improving durability, distance, tracking, sensitivity, dampening recovery to neutral and delivering noticeable weight saving.

 SPORT  SUPER MATCH  MATCH  SUPER MATCH LD  ULTRALITE ST

A decent ray caught from the pipe, and a cod too



THE POO PIPE

Not the most attractively named venue on the Holderness Coast, this mark is just south of Withernsea heading towards Holmpton on Holmpton Road.

No prizes for guessing that it's near a water treatment plant. A new stone track and parking area, giving access to the cliff top, was made while work was completed.

You can fish from your car, which makes this spot very popular at times. The cliffs here are some of the lowest on Holderness, mostly under 20ft.

A lot of anglers like fishing off the cliff tops here because the sea hits the cliffs on the larger tides, but on the smaller tides you should stay on the beach. There are usually a couple of spots cut into the cliff to get down to the sand. There have been some large bags of stone put in to cover the pipe against the cliff, with a sign saying 'do not climb' but, unfortunately, it is largely ignored.

Three hours either side of high water is the time I'd fish this mark, but if you're wanting to stay on the cliff tops consider two hours either side of high water. Most of this stretch fishes well, but I like fishing tight to the

pipe. I had my second cod of the season here too. It's also a very good mark for rays right through winter.

Fishing is mainly over sand and shingle, but it can be over clay at times. Low-water fishing can be snaggy due to exposed clays. It's worth putting out a longer trace with a large squid bait just before high water as the tidal pull eases. I've caught a few bonus rays in calm conditions doing so here.

I find a light westerly wind and a flat calm sea the best conditions to fish the pipe, as it's fairly open here. I've caught some nice fish from here over the years and some very good mixed bags of dogfish, whiting, cod and rays in the winter. I have found it can go quiet on the ebb on some occasions.

If the mark is busy, try just a few hundred yards further south towards Holmpton at what is known as Runnels. Unfortunately, it has limited parking, but there are several places for two or three cars to pull in on the roadside near the signpost for Holym. Walk towards the cliff top along the left-hand side of the dyke, where you'll find easy access at end of the dyke and a five to 10-minute walk to the mark.

EASINGTON

I've had some good fish here at low water over the last couple of seasons. It is one of the spots you'll find me fishing for cod on the smaller tides.

To get to Easington, take the A1033 from Hull to the caravan site (HU12 0TY). Just past the caravan site, there is an old disused boat compound, adjacent to which is a slipway cut out of the cliff, giving easy access to the beach. This venue has good parking just past the caravan site.

It can be quite snaggy at low water because there are lots of clays just beyond the low-water mark. You can fish here any stage of the tide, but if you are fishing low water be prepared for tackle losses due to the snags.

Most people fish this spot from half tide up and a couple back down. Local Spurn lugworms and squid are my bait choice for the cod here, so I'll often dig bait at Spurn Road or Kilnsea before fishing. Easington is only two-and-a-half miles from Kilnsea.

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

■ All marks on the Holderness Coast from Kilnsea up to Bridlington can be reached from minor roads off either the A165 or A1033 from Hull.



TACKLE SHOPS

- Chapman's Hull, 208-212 Hull Road, Hessle, HU13 9HU, tel: 01482 639900.
- East Coast Tackle, 1B Willows Drive, Hornsea, HU18 1DA, tel: 01964 535064.
- Fishing Basket, 500 Beverley Road, Hull, HU5 1NA, tel: 01482 445284.
- Fishing Republic, 6 Strickland Street, Hull, HU3 4AQ, tel: 01482 707977.
- Holderness Tackle, 118 Queen Street, Withernsea, HU19 2HB, tel: 01964 612340.
- Hull Angling Centre, 575-577 Holderness Road, Hull, HU8 9AA, tel: 01482 374201.
- North Bay Angling, 84 Promenade, Bridlington, YO15 2QL, tel: 01262 401144.

World Record Holders. 1997 – 2018 World Casting Champions.

Century TIP TORNADO

Century

www.century.uk





Sensitivity training

When scaling up your fishing, is there a grey area where LRF tactics meet HRF?

IN THE SHORT WHILE SINCE THE TERM Light Rock Fishing cropped up in the UK, the sport has grown massively. The perception and application of fishing as light as possible has become a common feature up and down the coast, and for a multitude of different species.

Although the style was a very Japanese concept in the beginning, anglers in the UK have developed it to suit their sea fishing. Techniques and tackle have been developed to help target our great sporting sea fish from mini-species to bigger quarry.

Yes, LRF has had a great impact,

especially on my own pursuit of sea fish species. By fishing ultra-light I have refined my various lure fishing techniques, none more so when stepping up to using heavier gear.

Is there a grey area where LRF meets HRF (heavy rock fishing)? In the strictest sense, no, because LRF is defined by line diameter used and the rod's maximum casting weight rating. That's lines up to a PEO.6 and casting weights of up to eight grams, but go over this and it is HRF.

This is the basic description of the terms, but the grey area is where the crossover in styles and techniques occurs.



WHEN TO SWITCH

There are not many anglers out there who solely fish LRF, but for those of us who count this as their main style, the benefits become really apparent when you step up into HRF territory.

Just because you are stepping up in line diameter and lure weight doesn't mean you go straight for the 50lb braid and 100g rod approach. Instead, my rods tend to pick up where my LRF gear leaves off in that grey area of casting weights.

Now my standard LRF kit is a rod capable of casting a lure from 1-10g (which is already 2g outside of the standard LRF description). My lines range from 4-8lb, depending on target species and underwater terrain. My HRF gear is a rod capable of casting 5-30g with lines from 10-20lb breaking strain.

I am comfortable when tackling big fish, like wrasse and pollack, on my LRF gear because I have developed an understanding of how far I can push my LRF tackle. I also know when the time is right to step up the gear strength, which is usually dictated by the type and size of fish I am targeting.

When I know there are 5lb-plus fish available, I switch to my HRF gear, especially when I am fishing rough ground. It means I stand the best chance of being able to land the fish on this gear. ▶

**A fine pollack
on a 35g
metal jig**



“My rods tend to pick up where my LRF gear leaves off in that grey area of casting weights”



This cod was lured on a 35g metal jig



ON-THE-DROP GEAR

One of my biggest LRF-related benefits comes from on-the-drop techniques, and particularly when I use heavy metal jigs.

'On-the-drop' refers to the act of a lure falling through the water. The rate at which it falls is dictated by the weight and style of lure, along with the control supplied by the angler.

A light lure gently falling through the water is a natural presentation for the fish. When you are fishing through the water column like this, the majority of bites come as the lure is dropping, rather than when you jig the lure up to let it fall down again.

Controlling the lure as it drops through the water column is crucial, and the main point is to keep in contact with the lure without impeding its action as it falls. The two ways in which the lure falls under my control are curved fall, where the lure swings back towards me on a tight line, and vertical fall, where I feed line through my fingers, or drop the rod tip to allow it to fall straight down.

Solid-tipped LRF rods are really great for on-the-drop techniques because when the lure falls through the water the line is generally slacker than when working a jig along the seabed. A solid-tip rod gives you a great visual indication of when a fish bites

either by springing up, indicating that a fish has grabbed the lure and swum up, or by nodding down, showing the fish has bitten.

Generally, the fish takes the lure confidently because the solid tip offers very little resistance, while giving the angler a visual indication of when to strike and set the hook.

SOLID V HOLLOW

That's all well and good, but a soft, solid tip can be more of a hindrance than a help when stepping up to using heavier metal jigs. Rather, the perfect rod for me has been a tube tip, but with a softer, more parabolic action than my standard ultra-fast action rods.

My current two favourites for working heavier jigs are the Hart Boushido and Hart Bloody Offshore Evo light. Both have a 5-30g

casting rating and a fast action. However, they both have a softer, more through action when it comes to playing a fish. There is a balance, though. If I went too soft with rod choice, I wouldn't be able to control the fish. Going too stiff with my selection would lose feeling and have more of a chance of bouncing off the fish due to lack of stretch in the braid.

Both rods curve nicely down about two-thirds of the blank and have a good bit of power in the butt section. This softer top section can be great when working jigs because the rod works the lure on the lift with a slower recovery (like a slow-pitch jigging rod) rather than most of the work being done by the arms.

The tube tips combined with braid still give great sensitivity, especially when using lines around PE1.5 diameter, and it is still possible to get a great visual indication of a bite by using high-visibility braid. This watching of the line is another of my mainstay LRF techniques. As the lure falls, the line, especially on a curve fall, will generally bow between the rod tip and the water. By using a high-visibility line you can keep track of its descent. A sudden slackness or the bow straightening momentarily are indications that a fish has grabbed the lure. These subtle takes are very

"A light lure gently falling through the water is a natural presentation for the fish"



While fishing for mackerel with a 28g Hart Bony metal jig...



...an angry squid took the lure

common when fishing on the drop, and LRF has taught me to look for these indications so I can strike before the fish spits the lure

When it comes to crossovers, using heavy metal jigs from 18-30g seems a world away from using a 2g jig-head and a lure of only one-inch long. They are so closely linked in my style of fishing that they are virtually one and the same. The only difference is, my lure falls faster.

When it comes to technique, it is just the same, and working jigs in this way is all about feel. First, you need to be in control of how the jig drops through the water. Having a good understanding of this is vital to allowing the lure to fish itself as it drops through the water column or swings back towards you on a curve fall.

THE PAYOFF

This sensitivity conditioning derived from LRF has been highlighted to me again in recent sessions. It started with a visit to a popular mark to catch a few mackerel.

With a 28g Hart Bony metal jig, I was casting and using a curved fall to work the water column. While watching the line and waiting for the rattle as it fell through a shoal of mackerel, the line suddenly paused.

Being aware this was a take, I struck and was rewarded with a squid angrily waving its tentacles at me.

I enjoy fishing for squid, but catching them on a standard metal lure required me to use all my finesse skills. Takes are so subtle when the squid grabs the lure with its tentacles. Because the squid is holding the lure, it can sense it is not real and you have a tiny window of opportunity to set the hook. Again, I am used to these tiny indications when fishing LRF so I was able to turn these takes into hook-ups.

I was fishing alongside other anglers who tried but couldn't feel or see the takes because they were not used to the subtlety or finesse approach of working lures in this manner. We were all using similar gear and fishing the same area, but it was my LRF training that ensured I could sense when the squid had my lure.

For most LRF anglers I will be preaching to the converted, but for those who do see LRF and HRF as two distinct styles, possibly unsuitable for your target species or terrain, then look again. LRF techniques improve your heavier fishing (better technique and better feeling) and result in fewer tackle losses and more fish – it's that simple. ■



New for 2018, our Tronixpro Xenon Tapered Shockleaders are made from advanced copolymer to create a strong and supple leader. Each tapered leader is continuous and knotless, tapering from 15lbs to 50lb or 60lbs, this taper enables the angler to tie neat, tight and compact knots when attaching a shockleader to their mainline. These compact knots lend themselves to anglers who fish with fixed spool and multiplier reels and also when using a level wind.

- Allows creation of smaller shockleader knots
- Amplifies line flow for smoothness to help increase casting distance
- Taper from 15lb (0.35mm) to 60lb (0.70mm) or 50lb (0.60mm)
- 5 x 15m Shockleaders per spool
- Ideal for shore anglers who use fixed spools and multipliers

For more information and to find your nearest stockist go to: trx-so/XenonLeaders

RRP £5.99

TRONIXPRO

**Offer closes
6th January**

SUBSCRIBE TO **Sea Angler** **AND SAVE 41%***

* when you choose the digital option and pay by recurring direct debit

SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND BENEFIT FROM:

- Never missing an issue
- Free delivery to your door or instant download to your digital device
- Saving on shop prices

ONLINE SIGN UP

www.greatmagazines.co.uk/seaangler

CHOOSE FROM THESE 3 OPTIONS...

OPTION 1



PRINT ONLY

13 issues for **£32** when you pay by recurring direct debit
13 issues for **£37** when you pay by credit / debit card / PayPal

OPTION 2



DIGITAL ONLY

13 issues for **£29** when you pay by recurring direct debit
13 issues for **£32.99** when you pay by direct debit / credit / debit card / PayPal

OPTION 3

BEST OFFER



PRINT + DIGITAL

13 issues for **£42** when you pay by recurring direct debit
13 issues of Print and Digital issues for **£47** when you pay by credit / debit card / PayPal



CONTACT 01858 43 8884

PLEASE QUOTE: **AFAA**

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Subscriptions will start with the next available issue. The minimum term is 13 months. After your first 13 issues (1 year) your subscription will be continued at this offer price thereafter unless you are notified otherwise. You will not receive a renewal reminder and the Direct Debit payments will continue to be taken unless you tell us otherwise. This offer closes on 06/01/19. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Cost from landlines for 01 numbers per minute are (approximate) 2p to 10p. Cost from mobiles per minute (approximate) 10p to 40p. Costs vary depending on the geographical location in the UK. You may get free calls to some numbers as part of your call package – please check with your phone provider. Order lines open 8am-9.30pm (Mon-Fri), 8am-4pm (Sat). UK orders only. Overseas? Please phone +44 1858 438828 for further details. Calls may be monitored or recorded for training purposes. For full terms and conditions please visit: www.greatmagazines.co.uk/offer-terms-and-conditions.

YOUR FISHING

Seven pages of your catches, news and angling insights

COD CENTRAL

Anglers take advantage of boost in region's fishing

YORKSHIRE SEEMS TO BE HAVING A good winter cod season, with fish taken from the Humber Estuary all the way up beyond Whitby, including fish into double figures caught among plenty of smaller ones.

Anglers fishing in the Whitby area of North Yorkshire have been finding some big cod. Richard Jackman, of Middlesbrough, caught a 10lb 3oz fish, while David Ward, of Guisborough, caught a 10lb 2oz cod. Richard was fishing on December 4 when the fish took a cocktail of cart, mussels and black lug, while David was fishing on December 10 and took his fish on cart and squid.

The same area produced a fine pair of cod, part of a bag of six weighing 25lb, for David Leak, of Hartlepool, who caught them during a few hours' fishing on the rock edges near Whitby. He used black lug and razorfish baits.

Fundraising angler Mike Smith visited nearby Staithes in North Yorkshire, where he caught a 7lb cod. The angler, from Penrith, Cumbria, has been fundraising for Cancer Research UK for a year, with anglers donating the weight of a fish caught (for instance, a 4lb fish = £4) to #abiteoutofcancer

Sea, coarse and game anglers are taking part, and you can help Mike's efforts by donating at www.justgiving.com/Mikesmith123uk

On East Yorkshire's Holderness Coast, Gareth Cammish, of Driffield, caught a near-7lb cod on a squid bait, while in the Humber Estuary, the 5a Buoy proved the hotspot.

When the Humber Cruising Association boat angling section sailed on December 2 for its charity match, there were 95 anglers on 35 boats leaving the marina or Cleethorpes

beach. It was the 5a Buoy where some decent cod were caught, including a 9lb-plus fish for winner Gary Norman. Second was Bob Bellamy with a 7lb 2oz cod. John Pyle was third with a codling of 5lb 15oz.

The problem for many of the anglers was trying to get through the whiting, and some of these weighed more than 2lb. The match raised £520 on the day – funds should reach about £600 and will be donated to the 'Rear into Gear' charity at Grimsby Hospital.

On the south bank of the estuary, there have been codling too. Eighteen-year-old Chelsey Turnbull, of Cleethorpes, NE Lincs, is just getting into sea angling and now firmly has the bug after catching a 4lb 8oz fish. She caught it at about 40 yards on a Pennell pulley rig with size 3/0 Varivas Big Mouth hooks baited with squid and lugworms.



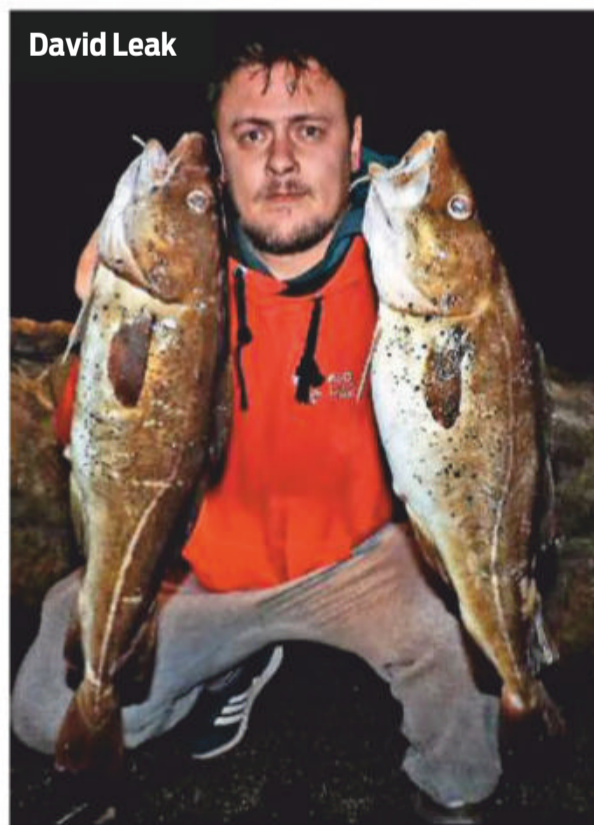
Richard Jackman



Gary Norman



David Ward



David Leak



Mike Smith



Chelsey Turnbull

SOUTH SHIELDS IN TOP FORM



This 8lb 2oz cod (left) was a personal best for former professional footballer Steve Simonsen. The angler from South Shields caught it on yellowtail lug tipped with a frozen peeler crab at his local pier. He was using a Pennell pulley rig.

At a nearby cliff mark, Shaun Rundle, of South Shields, Tyne & Wear, caught a 4lb 6oz codling on cart stick and black lug on a Pennell pulley (right).



FIGHT ON TO GIVE ANGLING A VOICE

Calls for recreational sea angling to be recognised as a stakeholder in future fisheries policy and a plea for an end to commercial over-fishing will be voted on by MPs.

They will form two amendments, put forward by the Angling Trust, to the Government's new Fisheries Bill. The first argues that recreational sea angling must be formally acknowledged as a legitimate stakeholder in future fisheries policy with a full seat at the table. The second calls for commercial overfishing to be ended through a legally binding duty placed on Ministers only to set fishing limits that do not exceed best scientific advice in order to rebuild fish stocks.

In December there was Parliamentary scrutiny of the Government's new Fisheries Bill, during which the Angling Trust's Martin Salter was invited to present evidence to both the Fisheries Bill Committee and the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee. The next step is for the Bill to be discussed by the House of Lords.

■ Ignoring local doctrine, Lazslo Meszaros, from Starcross, Devon, fished the Exe estuary in flood.

After the usual plague of bass up to 1lb, he was rewarded with a 4lb 4oz bass on a 5-25g spinning rod with 4lb mainline and a running trace carrying a size 4 hook baited with rag.



■ This 14lb 7oz spurdog was a first of the species for Gatty Gatland, of Modbury, who was fishing at a local South Devon beach.

He caught it on a Pennell pulley rig with a Bluey and sandeel wrap.



■ Paul 'Pablo' Phillips, of Barrow, Cumbria, fished a local mark with a whole squid on a pulley dropper rig armed with Big Mouth hooks and caught this cod. The fish was returned and not weighed, but Paul says it would have been a personal best.



Sam Teed, of Guernsey, Channel Islands, was conger fishing with a 200lb trace and size 8/0 hook and whole mackerel flapper when he hooked a 6lb 7oz bass.



■ A 41cm plaice and a 1lb witch (also known as a grey sole) were the highlights of a recent session for Sean McCaffrey. The angler, from Scalloway, Shetland Islands, fished near his home with a two-up, one-down rig carrying plenty of coloured beads, size 1 hooks and a 5oz coloured grip lead.



■ John Locker, of Truro, Cornwall, took advantage of a short window in the weather to fish an inshore mark from his own boat. It paid off when he caught this 6lb 3oz ballan wrasse on a soft plastic lure rigged Texas-style.



■ The best fishing off Poole, Dorset, has been for bass with skipper Sam Cumming, of Silver Spray Charters, reporting several doubles among plenty of hard-fighting fish taken on light tackle. These included a 10lb 4oz first bass for Craig Bewman, while Ian Memish (pictured) caught the boat's biggest of the year. The fish was released without weighing, but Sam estimated it to be around 14lb.

■ Hazel Tipping, who runs Hookers Baits, has won an award for Outstanding Woman in Business.

Running her nationwide next-day delivery live and frozen sea baits business based in Cleveleys, Lancs, Hazel, who was honoured at the Wyre Business Awards 2018, said: "It's not very often any fishing shop or business is recognised, so it's a huge accolade to have."

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Catch a specimen fish to earn a badge and a chance of winning quality **Shimano** tackle

ENTRY FORM

Badges are sent out after your name appears in the magazine.

Name _____

Age _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____

Email _____

Type of fish _____

Caught at _____

Weight _____

Date caught _____

Bait/Rig _____

Caught from: shore ☐ boat ☐

Boat name _____

Skipper _____

Port _____

Witness & tel _____

My fish was returned ☐
was not returned ☐

Post to: Shimano Mission,
Sea Angler magazine, Media House,
Lynchwood, Peterborough Business
Park, Peterborough PE2 6EA

Yes please, keep me up to date via email with the
latest news and special offers from Sea Angler ☐
Please do let us keep in contact so we make sure
you don't miss out.

You can unsubscribe at any time from any email
we send you via the unsubscribe link or emailing
dataprotectionofficer@bauermedia.co.uk
For our privacy policy go to <http://www.bauerdatapromise.co.uk>
Bauer Media Group consists of Bauer Consumer
Media Ltd, Bauer Radio Ltd and H Bauer Publishing

FANCY WINNING TACKLE FROM SHIMANO by catching a fish? Your target is to catch one over the weight given on our nominated species list.

If you do, you automatically win a Mission Accomplished badge, as well as being in with the chance of winning a great monthly tackle prize.

Each issue we award a superb Shimano reel to the captor of the best shore fish and best boat-caught fish, both chosen on merit. There is no choice of prize, which is awarded at our discretion.



Andy Sanders, Bideford, Devon.
Fish: 2lb flounder.
Bait: Ragworms on a running leger rig.
Venue: North Devon.
Date: Nov 18.



John Watson, Ashington, Northumberland.
Fish: 196lb common skate. **Bait:** Octopus, mackerel and coalfish. **Venue:** Laura Dawn II (Ronnie Campbell), Oban. **Date:** Dec 1.



Jack Warby, Steynton, Pembrokeshire.
Fish: 9lb 12oz bull huss. **Bait:** Whole mackerel on a Pennell rig. **Venue:** Martin's Haven, Pembs. **Date:** Oct 31.



Sarah Croft, Worthing, West Sussex.
Fish: 43lb conger eel. **Bait:** Whiting. **Venue:** Worthing Pier, West Sussex. **Date:** Dec 1.



Paul Phillips, Teignmouth, Devon.
Fish: 12lb 1oz bull huss. **Bait:** Mackerel on a Pennell-pulley rig. **Venue:** South Hams rock mark. **Date:** Nov 25.

MONTHLY WINNERS
■ **SHORE:** Sarah Croft, 43lb conger eel.
■ **BOAT:** John Watson, 196lb common skate.

MISSION BADGE WINNERS

BASS SHORE

Anne Lock, Burnham-on-Sea, 5-4*,
Burnham-on-Sea
Jamie Lock, Burnham-on-Sea, 11-9*,
Burnham-on-Sea

COD SHORE

Dean Cook, Cheltenham, 10-2, Clevedon Pier

CONGER SHORE

Sarah Croft, Worthing, 43-0*, Worthing Pier

FLATFISH SHORE

Sean McCaffrey, Scalloway, 1-0 witch
and 2-1 plaice, Shetland
Andy Sanders, Bideford, 2-0 flounder,
North Devon

RAY SHORE

Jamie Lock, Burnham-on-Sea,
10-9 thornback*, Burnham-on-Sea

RAY BOAT

Bob Blair, Portchester, 6-4 spotted*,
Portsmouth
Jason Budge, Taunton, 15-0 undulate*,
Weymouth
John Watson, Ashington, 196-0 common
skate*, Oban

SHARK SHORE

Paul Phillips, Teignmouth, 12-1 huss*, South
Hams
Jack Warby, Steynton, 9-12 huss*, Pembs



SEND US YOUR ENTRIES AND WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES



■ The winners
of the best
shore-caught
and boat-
caught fish win
a Shimano reel.
The sponsor
reserves the
right to send an
alternative prize
of equal value.



YOUR MISSION TARGETS...

Catch a fish of this weight or above in your region to qualify for a badge. South is the area below a line drawn from the River Mersey to The Wash. North is the area above a line drawn from the River Mersey to The Wash.

NORTH

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	6lb	7lb
Black bream	1lb	2lb
Red bream	2lb	2lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	1lb	1lb
Gilthead bream	2lb	2lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	2lb	4lb
Bull huss	7lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	15lb
Conger	19lb	30lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Ling	5lb	18lb
Mullet	3lb	4lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	10lb
Common skate	60lb	140lb
Blonde ray	10lb	14lb
Thornback ray	8lb	13lb
Small-eyed/undulate	6lb	10lb
Ray (other)	3lb	4lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	8lb	9lb
Spurdog	6lb	10lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Turbot	4lb	12lb
Wrasse (ballan)	3lb	3lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	52lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	155lb

SOUTH

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	8lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	15lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	113lb

THE RULES...

- Only fish caught since August 2018 are eligible.
- We must see a picture of the fish. We may refuse an entry.
- You can claim one badge per species in an issue.
- A further badge can be awarded in future only if you set a new personal best.
- Enter by post using the coupon; by email (please include information requested on the postal form) to paul.fenech@bauermedia.co.uk
- Prizes are as stated (Shimano reserves the right to send alternatives).
- No correspondence will be entered into.

BASS

■ **Shore:** 19lb 13oz 8dr

John S Locker

■ **Boat:** 19lb 4oz

Wayne Milton

BLACK BREAM

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz 1dr

C Le Monnier

■ **Boat:** 6lb 6oz

Tony Heart

COUCH'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 2lb 15oz 1dr

Lynton Carre

■ **Boat:** 6lb 9oz 7dr

Ray Fallaize

GILTHEAD BREAM

■ **Shore:** 9lb 8oz

Scott Smy

■ **Boat:** 10lb 2oz

Roger Simcox

PANDORA'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 1lb 2oz

Baz Wheeler

RAY'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 6lb 1oz

Jordan Colwell

RED BREAM

■ **Boat:** 6lb 4oz

Patrick Meegan

BRILL

■ **Shore:** 6lb 12oz

Mark Griggs

■ **Boat:** 13lb 10oz

Tony Hayward

TURBOT

■ **Shore:** 20lb 2oz

Eddy Barham

■ **Boat:** 32lb 1oz

Steve Scally

BULL HUSS

■ **Shore:** 21lb 9oz

M Urquhart

■ **Boat:** 23lb

D Nicholson

COD

■ **Shore:** 32lb

Adrian Lloyd

■ **Boat:** 43lb 9oz

Chris Proctor

CONGER EEL

■ **Shore:** 66lb 8oz

Andy Eke

■ **Boat:** 109lb 8oz

Roger Beer

DAB

■ **Shore:** 2lb 4oz 12dr

Jason Tucker

■ **Boat:** 1lb 15oz

Sean McCaffrey

FLOUNDER

■ **Shore:** 4lb 14oz 8dr

Paul Blehs

■ **Boat:** 5lb 3oz 14dr

Philip Dawson

DOVER SOLE

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz

Phil Troke

■ **Boat:** 4lb 6oz

M Le-Moignan

HALIBUT

■ **Boat:** 56lb 12oz

Peter Strickson

LEMON SOLE

■ **Boat:** 3lb 3oz

G Newcombe

MEGRIM

■ **Boat:** 2lb 14oz

Philip Lewis

PLAICE

■ **Shore:** 6lb 11oz

Martin Coates

■ **Boat:** 8lb 0oz 8dr

M Mowbray

LING

■ **Shore:** 18lb 11oz

Ross McKay

■ **Boat:** 88lb 6oz 8dr

G Laurenson

GOLDEN GREY MULLET

■ **Shore:** 3lb 8oz 8dr

D Woolcombe

■ **Boat:** 4lb 11oz

Stephan Martini

MULLET

■ **Shore:** 11lb 8oz

Glenn Lane

■ **Boat:** 11lb

Chris Harris

POLLACK

■ **Shore:** 18lb 4oz

Chris Griffin

■ **Boat:** 27lb 1oz

Barry James

BLONDE RAY

■ **Shore:** 31lb

Gary Tucker

■ **Boat:** 39lb 10oz

S Underwood

COMMON SKATE

■ **Shore:** 232lb

Lew Marsden

■ **Boat:** 249lb

Hans Dykman

CUCKOO RAY

■ **Shore:** 4lb 11oz

Kevin Hughes

■ **Boat:** 5lb 8oz

L Longmore

EAGLE RAY

■ **Shore:** 102lb

Ray Lewis

ELECTRIC RAY

■ **Boat:** 52lb

Chris Wood

MARBLED ELECTRIC

■ **Shore:** 11lb 1oz 5dr

Pierre Garrick

■ **Boat:** 21lb 7oz 12dr

David Bree

SMALL-EYED RAY

■ **Shore:** 17lb 8oz

M Robertson

■ **Boat:** 21lb

Dave Lynes

SPOTTED RAY

■ **Shore:** 7lb 14oz

Liam Warder

■ **Boat:** 8lb 4oz

Neil Buckett

STINGRAY

■ **Shore:** 71lb 6oz

Steve Harder

■ **Boat:** 69lb 8oz

John Styles

THORNBARK RAY

■ **Shore:** 22lb 11oz 10dr

Mike Johnson

■ **Boat:** 24lb 11oz

Gary Mewdell

UNDULATE RAY

■ **Shore:** 20lb 1oz

Steve Harder

■ **Boat:** 25lb 2oz

Scott Russell

ANGEL SHARK

■ **Boat:** 54lb

John Johnson

BLUE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 253lb

James Fellows

MAKO SHARK

■ **Shore:** 194lb 4oz

Andrew Griffith

PORBEAGLE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 484lb 8oz

Chris Bett

THRESHER SHARK

■ **Boat:** 350lb

Bob Smith

SMOOTH HOUND

■ **Shore:** 28lb 10oz

Steve Cullen

■ **Boat:** 30lb

Trevor Knight

SPURDOG

■ **Shore:** 18lb 14oz

William Roche

■ **Boat:** 25lb 4oz

Shane Salmon

TOPE

■ **Shore:** 66lb 10oz

Michael Bell

■ **Boat:** 86lb

David Cook

BALLAN WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 9lb 4oz

Darren Swift

■ **Boat:** 9lb

Glen Carter

CUCKOO WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 1lb 13oz

Joe Edward

TIME MACHINE

Looking back through 40 years of Britain's biggest and best sea angling magazine...

JANUARY

2009

■ Fat flounders were showing in Poole Harbour, with Jason Rothwell catching a 4lb 5oz 12dr fish at Hamworthy, while junior angler Jordan Judge took a couple of two-pounders.

■ Yorkshire match angler Ray Maddison was 10 minutes into a pegged event on Marine Drive, Scarborough, when he caught a 19lb cod.

■ The Humber produced an 18lb 7oz cod from the Bull Anchorage for Brian Bee, of Grimsby. It was one of the biggest fish from the estuary for many years.

■ Rough ground off Brighton, East Sussex, produced a superb 31lb 5oz cod for Eastbourne boat angler Sean Tester when he fished aboard Aquavitesse, skippered by Noel West, out of Brighton Marina. The fish fell to a whole squid on a Pennell rig.

■ The future of the Sea Angling Conservation Network looked bleak with the retirement of Leon Roskilly. It seemed nobody was prepared to take on the job.

1999

■ Fishing near his home in Portland, Dorset, Pete Hegg set a new shore record for a ballan wrasse. He caught a stunning 9lb 1oz fish to beat the existing record of 8lb 13oz 2dr, set by Simon Gavey while fishing on Jersey. Pete still holds the shore record.

■ An engineer from Gosport, in Hampshire, boated a 21lb cod while fishing just south of the Needles to the west of the Isle of Wight. John Sumner caught it on a whole squid while fishing from Roger Bayzand's Sundance II, out of Lymington.

■ Adrian Gittings, of Bath's



Gannet SAC, caught a 7lb 14oz tub gurnard while fishing for whiting off Portland, Dorset. He was fishing on Paul Whittall's Offshore Rebel, out of Weymouth.

■ Des Fairbairn, of Herne Hill, in London, made the trip to Dover for a day's bass fishing and was rewarded with a 15lb 4oz fish taken on

a squid and lug cocktail. Des was fishing off the South Foreland aboard Discovery, skippered by Steve Waters, out of Dover.

1989

■ Lugworms were in short supply in East Anglia as tackle shops struggled to get enough to cater for their customers. It coincided with a boost in beach fishing as hordes of whiting and cod were caught by anglers on the region's beaches.

■ An angler fishing in a species contest landed a Scottish record spurdog. John Bean, of Dunfermline, beat the old record of 17lb 12dr with a giant of 18lb 14oz. He was boat fishing out of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull.

■ A 5lb 8oz 4dr marbled electric ray caught by Martin Shales, from Jersey, while fishing at Bonne Nuit pier, was being claimed as a British record, which was open at 1lb. The fish fell to a pollack bait. Martin was the third member of his family to hold a British record – his father Colin set an undulate ray

record in 1978 with a fish of 15lb 8oz and his wife Lillian once she held the rock cook wrasse record.

■ David Rowe was appointed development officer of the National Federation of Sea Anglers. Bob Page would become president and honorary treasurer.

■ Colin Penny, of

Dorchester, Dorset, caught pollack of 18lb and 17lb 8oz during a trip on Peace and Plenty, skippered by Chris Tett out of Weymouth. Colin, who is now the skipper of the charter boat Flamer, had caught a 19lb 4oz pollack a few weeks earlier to set a Weymouth Angling Society record.

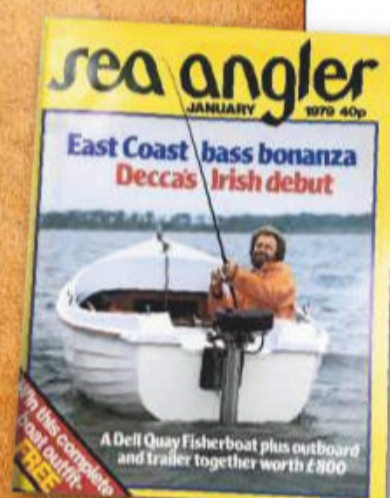
1979

■ The existence of bluefin tuna around our coast was confirmed when a commercial boat operating 25 miles off Falmouth, Cornwall, boated a 777-pounder. The fish was eaten by employees of the WD & HO Wills factory in Bristol. Its head was donated to the University of Bristol's zoology department.

■ The East Coast had enjoyed a bumper winter after gales from November onwards produced superb fishing. Many boats caught so many cod that they had to return to port early, having run out of bait. One Great Yarmouth boat had 53 cod to 18lb 8oz, with no fish under 5lb.

■ Charter boats out of Bradwell reported an amazing season with an aggregate of more than 2,000 bass, 2,500 rays and 2,500 smoothhounds. Bob Cox, John Rawle and Kevin Benham saw more than 50 bass topping 10lb, to a best of 14lb 12oz. The best hound weighed in at 20lb 12oz and was a British record, while the best thornback went 18lb 8oz.

■ Geoffrey Bucknall, from Kent, and owner his own boat, was attempting to form an association of private fishing boat owners. "We are a different breed. We're neither cruising nor charter people. We ought to get together and help each other," he said.



YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its younger readers



Zac Campbell presented half a mackerel to tempt this thornback ray weighing 12lb 8oz. The nine-year-old, from Shoreham, in West Sussex, was fishing from a private boat six miles out to sea.



Eight-year-old **Harrison Izzard** had a good day in the Weston-super-Mare SAA RNLI open. In a match featuring 60 entrants, including five juniors, the angler from Axbridge was top in the under-16 section with a 20cm bass and a 38cm flounder (1lb 9oz), which also placed him 11th overall.



Jack Lavis, aged nine, of Plymouth, fished the National Flounder Festival at Teignmouth and caught this 1lb 9oz 2dr flounder on the first day. It won him the junior champs in the event. "His reaction would have been heard by everyone on the estuary," said dad Kevin. "His face sums it up."



Cameron Charlesworth won the junior section of the Sunderland Open Festival, securing a £50 tackle voucher to be spent at Rutherford's Angling. He used a two-hook flapper rig baited with mussels to catch this codling from Roker pier.



Lacey Gray, of Newcastle upon Tyne, was junior and ladies champion in the recently-held South Shields open. She fished at Hebburn marina, where she caught this codling weighing 2lb 15oz.



While visiting Weymouth, in Dorset, **Finlay Draper** caught this pollack on a Fiiish Black Minnow lure. The angler, from Northampton, was fishing with his dad at Weymouth harbour.



On a windy day at Roker pier in Sunderland, **Harley Thompson** celebrated his seventh birthday with a win in his local club event. He caught 10 whiting and a dab for a total weight of just over 7lb.



Jack Reynolds, 12, of Worlebury, Somerset, fished for the Channel Anglers team of 10 in the Bristol Channel FSA winter open. On his first cast he caught a 38cm whiting, followed by a 45cm dogfish. That made him the top scorer in his team and enough to earn him equal second in the individual event. He won the Junior/Senior pairs with Craig Butler.



Supporting the future of angling

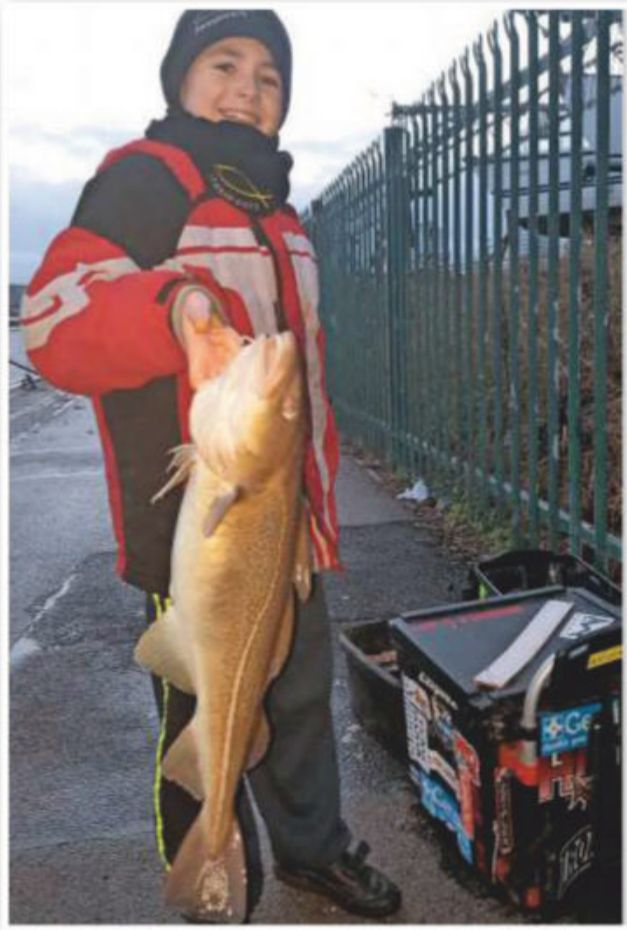
In association with



WIN A £25 TACKLE VOUCHER

Fishingmegastore.com awards a £25 voucher prize to each of two winners – the youngster with the best shore fish and another with the top boat catch. The winners can use the voucher to select tackle from **Fishingmegastore.com** which is based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

■ **HOW TO ENTER:** We prefer digital photographs sent by email to **paul.fenech@bauermedia.co.uk** Please include the details listed on the form (right). Prints can be sent by post with the form.



Keane Greenhow caught the heaviest fish in his local club event when he fished into the River Wear estuary. The 10-year-old, from Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, used a two-hook flapper rig loaded with yellowtail lug and tipped with Bluey to catch the 5lb 4oz codling.



This 2lb 1oz plaice fell to the rod of **Max Cleal** when he fished from Chesil Beach, in Dorset. The nine-year-old, from nearby Dorchester, presented black lug on a 4/0 Pennell-pulley rig.



On her first fishing trip, **Millie Hubbard**, 10, of Easington, County Durham, fished her local beach and caught this codling on a pulley rig baited with mussels.



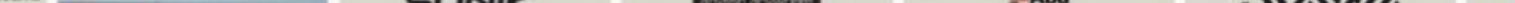
Duncan MacPherson, aged 12, from Kilmorack in the Highlands, boated this fantastic common skate weighing 125lb. He was fishing aboard Ronnie Campbell's charter boat out of Oban.




YOUNG RODS ENTRY FORM

First name: _____
Surname: _____
Age: _____
Daytime tel: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Email: _____
Type of fish: _____
Date caught: _____
Caught at: _____
Weight: _____
Bait: _____
Rig/tackle: _____
Shore ☐
Charter boat ☐
Private boat ☐
Boat name: _____
Skipper: _____
Port: _____
My fish was returned ☐
Not returned ☐
I enclose an SAE ☐
Post to...
Young Rods, Sea Angler magazine, Bauer Media, Media House, Lynchwood, Peterborough PE2 6EA.
I have the permission of my parent/guardian for my picture to be used by Sea Angler (tick box) ☐

Bauer Media, publisher of Sea Angler, may also from time to time contact you by post or phone. Please tick if you do not wish to be contacted by us ☐ or carefully selected partner organisations ☐
* We will communicate with you from time to time with relevant promotions from Bauer Media, publisher of Sea Angler. You can of course unsubscribe at any time and your details will never be passed on to other organisations.




SHIMANO
FIXED SPOOL REELS




Power Aero
14000 XSB Surf Reel

RRP £399.99 **£269**




Fliegen 35SD
Surf Reel


RRP £439.99 **£339.99**



PENN PENN SURF REELS



Surfblaster II from **£79.99**



Affinity II from **£109.99**

	SURFBLASTER II REELS NEW	
	7000 NEW	£109.99 £74.99
	8000 NEW	£109.99 £84.99
	AFFINITY II LC	
	7000	£149.99 £99.99
	8000	£159.99 £99.00
	MAG 3 SURFCASTING NEW	
	515 NEW	£169.99 £99.00
	YUKI SURF REELS	

FIXED SPOOL RRP PRICE
AMG Surf.....£220.99 SOLD OUT
Kymo Surf.....£139.99 £115.00

TG-F1 MK3  **The Racket Reel Company**
 Chrome or Chrome & Gold Multiplier Reel  **£479.95**
 See website for details **£525**

FIN-NOR

MARQUESE & SPORTSTER LEVER DRAG REELS



	RP	RPW
MA201 Marquessa 2 Speed	\$425	\$390
MA201 Marquessa 2 Speed	\$438	\$390
MA201 Marquessa 2 Speed	\$510	\$380
MA201 Marquessa 2 Speed	\$565	\$390
MA212 Marquessa Heavy Duty	\$335	\$229
MA220 Marquessa Heavy Duty	\$320	\$239
MA230 Marquessa Heavy Duty	\$358	\$240
MA230 Marquessa Heavy Duty	\$425	\$290

	RP	RPW
25 Lower Drag Multiplier	\$142	\$99
25 Lower Drag Multiplier	\$138	\$110

FIN-NOR
BOAT RODS

2 Pce Lethal Variado Rod
6-12lb, 12-30lb, RRP NOW
20-30lb £150-£125 £94.99-£109.99

4 Pce Lethal Valthul Traveller Light Rod
7' 30-50lb or RRP NOW
40-140lb £175-£188 £139-£149

Tidal Traveller Boat Rod RRP NOW
R or S £95-£95 £79



WESTIN
FISHING SUITS

NEW W3
1 Piece
RSP £219
£149
Support

REDUCED THIS MONTH

1 Piece W6 Flotation Suit - Making it fun RSP £129 £199	2 Piece Winter Soft Metal Lenses RSP £279 £179
---	--

Accurate
Fish Head

TX-300 Tern
Star Drag Reels
from £299

SAVE UP TO £75

Boat Reels
19 Models to choose from

£299 - £415

SPECIAL OFFER

okuma
HIGH PERFORMANCE

SAVE UP TO £150

Multiplier Reels
RRP £169-£429

NOW FROM £89

IMAX

SAVE OVER £70

FR Match Beachcaster
Rods - 2 Piece RRP NOW
13ft 8in FR Match £169.99 £99
13ft 8in FR Match Plus £169.99 £99
13ft 8in FR Match Extreme £169.99 £99
Available With Multiplier Or Fixed Spool Rings

LAST FEW

ALL REDUCED TO CLEAR

PENN

RAMPAGE II
7' 4" 30-50lb, 50lb 2pc RRP NOW £84.99 £49
7' 6" 20-30lb, 30lb 2pc £84.99 £49
7' 8" 12-20lb 4pc £84.99 £49
8' 2" Braid 6-12lb 2pc £84.99 £49
8' 2" Braid 12-20, 20-30lb 2pc £84.99 £49

SAVE OVER £35

QUANTUM
BLU SPIN SPINNING RODS

LOWER PRICES
6' 10-35g - 2 Piece RRP NOW £99.95 £35
7' 7-35g - 2 Piece £109.95 £39
7' 10-50g - 2 Piece £110.95 £39
8' 7-35g - 2 Piece £110.95 £49

SAVE OVER £71

QUANTUM

3 Piece World Champion Surf
Masterpiece Rod - 4.2m - 100-250g
This revolutionary masterpiece from Quantum will delight surf anglers.
RRP £485 **NOW £239**

AMAZING OFFER!

SHIMANO

Beast Master

Beastmaster EX Lure Rods
8ft - 10-30g RRP NOW £89.99 £65
9ft - 14-50g £114.99 £85
9ft - 50-100g £119.99 £85
10ft - 20-50g £129.99 £95

SAVE UP TO £35

SONIK
BEACHCASTERS

ZX SHORE RODS
13'5" 4-6oz RRP NOW £319.99 £159
13'5" 5-7oz £329.99 £159
14'5" 5-7oz £349.99 £165

GRAVITY SURF RODS
15'4" X5 HT 4-8oz NEW £349.99 £299

SAVE OVER £184

IRONFISHING
MULTIPLIER REELS

ENVOY TOURNAMENT REELS
Right or Left Handed RRP NOW £99.99 £49
Mono Mag Multiplier £99.99 £49
LW Multiplier **SOLD OUT**
Mag Multiplier **SOLD OUT**
Orbit Multiplier £89.99 £49

SAVE 50%

FIN-NOR
LEGENDARY TACKLE SINCE 1933

Offshore Front Drag Spinning Reels
Heavy Duty Saltwater Spinning/Jigging reels - Latest model
5 Models

SAVE UP TO 35%

RRP £175-£225 from £115

QUANTUM

Maniac Duracast Surf 570 Reel
RRP £119 **NOW £49**

UNDER 1/2 PRICE

QUANTUM

Smoke Inshore Reels
Left Handed

SAVE £124

RRP £249 NOW £125

Snowbee
RAPTOR SPINNING RODS

6ft 2-8g 2-pce RRP NOW £78 £59
7ft 2in 4-12g 2-pce £90 £59
7ft 2in 7-25g 2-pce £103 £69
7ft 8in 10-35g 4-pce £119 £79
8ft 6in 8-35g 4-pce £129 £89
8ft 10-50g 2-pce £125 £69

ALL REDUCED

Snowbee
KUROSHIO SPINNING RODS

7' 2" 0.5-7g 4 Piece RRP NOW £169 £89
7' 10" 2-10g 4 Piece £179 £89
7' 2" 7-28g 4 Piece £169 £89
7' 8" 10-35g 4 Piece £175 £89
8' 6" 10-35g 4 Piece £185 £99
9' 15-40g 4 Piece £189 £99

40% OFF

Snowbee
RAPTOR 2 SW REELS

Raptor 2 SW-1000 RRP NOW £89.99 £59
Raptor 2 SW-3000 £93.99 £59
Raptor 2 SW-3000 £96.99 £69
Raptor 2 SW-4000 £99.99 £69

ALL REDUCED

FIN-NOR
LEGENDARY TACKLE SINCE 1933

5 Piece Tidal Traveller Boat Rod
9ft Up to 180g
Ideal for the travelling angler. Suitable for Cod/Halibut etc as well as Various Blue Water Species.

SAVE £45

RRP £104.95 £59

QUANTUM
IRON SPINNING RODS

LOWER PRICES
7' 20g - 2 Piece RRP NOW £139.95 £89
8' 24g - 2 Piece £159.95 £99
9' 28g - 2 Piece £179.95 £119
10' 43g - 2 Piece £199.95 £129

SAVE OVER £80

QUANTUM
IRON PT SPINNING REELS

LOWER PRICES
IR25PTS RRP NOW £149 £99
IR30PTS £149 £109
IR40PTS £159 £119
IR50PTS £159 £119
Spare Spool £19.99

SAVE UP TO £50

LRF / BASS / SPINNING LURE FISHING

PENN FISHING
SLAMMER III SPINNING REELS

Slammer III 1500 RRP NOW **SOLD OUT**
Slammer III 4500 **SOLD OUT**
Slammer III 5500 **SOLD OUT**
Slammer III 6500 £209.99 £167.99
Slammer III 7500 £229.99 £194.99
Slammer III 8500 **SOLD OUT**
Slammer III 9500 £249.99 £214.99

PENN FISHING
CLASH SPINNING REELS

Clash 2000 RRP NOW £145.99 £116.99
Clash 2500 £159.99 £125.99
Clash 3000 **SOLD OUT**
Clash 4000 **SOLD OUT**
Clash 5000 £189.99 £152.99
Clash 6000 **SOLD OUT**
Clash 8000 **SOLD OUT**

PENN FISHING
FIXED SPOOL SPINNING REELS

Pursuit II RRP NOW £99 **SOLD OUT**
Pursuit II 1000 £109.99 £59.99
Pursuit II 2000 £134.99 £59.99
Pursuit II 2500 £149.99 £59.99
Pursuit II 3000 £164.99 £59.99
Pursuit II 4000 **SOLD OUT**
Pursuit II 5000 £194.99 £79.99
Pursuit II 6000 £204.99 £79.99
Pursuit II 8000 £219.99 £89.99

FIN-NOR
TIDAL FIXED SPOOL REELS

TS45 RRP NOW £95.95 £69
TS55 £105.00 £75
TS65 £115.00 £79
TS75 £125.00 £89
TS95 **SOLD OUT**

FIN-NOR
SPINNING REELS

Heavy Duty Saltwater Spinning/Jigging Reel

OFFSHORE FRONT DRAG RRP NOW
OF2500 £175.00 £125
OF3500 £179.00 £129
OF4500 £199.00 £129
OF5500 £215.00 £149
OF6500 £225.00 £159

SHIMANO
STRADIC FK SPINNING REELS

Stradic FK 1000 RRP NOW £145.99 £129.99
Stradic FK 2500 £149.99 £134.99
Stradic FK 3000 £149.99 £134.99
Stradic FK 4000 £159.99 £143.99
Stradic FK 5000 £159.99 £143.99

SHIMANO
FIXED SPOOL SPINNING REELS

TWIN POWER
Will stand-up to the hardest fighting species
5 Models Available
From £299

STELLA
The ultimate saltwater spinning reel
8 Models Available
From £599

SONIK
MAGNA TRAVEL RODS 4 PIECE

Built with a 1K carbon weave on the butt section for durability the rods are also finished in a stylish matt black to reduce any flash and an unadorned reel for easy catching good looks.
4 Models from RRP £74.99-£99.99 £49

QUANTUM
CABO SPINNING RODS

Quantum Cabo PT50
RRP £199 £199

LOWER PRICES
8' - 150g RRP NOW £199 £139
8' - 150g £209 £159

QUANTUM
CABO PT SEA REEL

Quantum Cabo PT50
RRP £199 £199

LOWER PRICES
PT 40 RRP NOW £229 £169
PT 50 £229 £179
PT 60 £249 £185
PT 80 £259 £199
Spare Spool from £24

QUANTUM
EXO TI SPINNING REELS

Quantum Exo Ti
RRP £129 £129

LOWER PRICES
1120 Exo Ti Spinning Reel £249 £179
1130 Exo Ti Spinning Reel £269 £189
1140 Exo Ti Spinning Reel £279 £195
1150 Exo Ti Spinning Reel £299 £199
Spare Spool for Exo Ti from £23

QUANTUM
SMOKE SPINNING REELS

Quantum Smoke
RRP £129 £129

LOWER PRICES
SL1500 RRP NOW £229 £125
SL2500 £229 £125
SL3500 £229 £125
SL4500 £229 £125
SL5500 £229 £125
Spare Spool £24.95

DAIWA
SALTEGA MAG SEALED SPINNING REELS

10 Models in the range
£630 - £850

SALTEGA BJ SPINNING REELS
4 Models in the range
RRP £730 £650

DAIWA
NINJA SPINNING REELS

DAIWA Ninja
RRP £43.99 £44.99
NINJA00A £44.99 £44.99
NINJA00B £44.99 £44.99
NINJA00C £44.99 £44.99
NINJA00D £44.99 £44.99

DAIWA
16 CERTATE REELS

CERTATE
THE NEW FUTURE STANDARD HAS EVOLVED...

CERTATE
The benchmark in high performance fixed spool reels.
16 Models in the range
£334.99 - £389.99

DESTINATION FISHING
See website for full details

SHIMANO
2 PIECE TIAGRA ULTRA TROLLING RODS

Built using an ultra thin, light blank, with all the strength required from a top trolling rod.

5'5" - 20-30lb RRP NOW £399.99 £299
5'5" - 30-50lb £424.99 £329
5'5" - 50-80lb £474.99 £339

SHIMANO
LESATH BX & DX POWER BIG GAME 2 PIECE SPINNING RODS

An exceptionally light rod for hand fighting saltwater predators from both the shore or from a boat.

BX 8' - 60-120g RRP NOW **SOLD OUT**
BX 9' - 20-80g **SOLD OUT**
BX 9' - 90-120g £219.99 £249
DX 6' 9" - 7-28g £369.99 £369
DX 7' 9" - 14-42g NEW £344.99 £399
DX 8' 9" - 21-56g NEW £399.99 £449

SHIMANO
5 PIECE STC TRAVEL SPINNING RODS

Travel rods with a short transport length so you can pack it in your suitcase, car, backpack or wherever you want to store it!

9' - 15-40g RRP NOW £179.99 £110
10' - 20-60g £179.99 £115

SHIMANO
TIAGRA 2 SPEED LEVER DRAG MULTIPLIER REELS

6 MODELS AVAILABLE

THE BIG GAME REEL THAT BECAME A WORLDWIDE MARKET LEADER
It's the solid construction, in combination with easy to use features, that is loved by the most demanding big game fishermen.
from RRP £529.99 from £479.99

SHIMANO
STELLA SW-D DESTINATION REELS

Ultimate saltwater spinning reel incorporating saltwater proofing, maximum winding power & an X-Tough Drag capable of taming the largest saltwater species.

9 Models available
£599.99 - £949.99

FIN-NOR
PRIMAL MULTIPLIER REELS

Marquesa
Marquesa is a light weight, aggressively built, corrosion protected, magnesium alloy reel, and is loaded with 10000 Angstroms of Super Strong sealed Micro Drag™ that achieves 15 pounds of drag and up to 50 pounds of maximum drag with ultra smooth performance.

PR10MS RRP NOW £229 £189
PR12MS £229 £189

FIN-NOR
MARQUESA & SPORTFISHER LEVER DRAG REELS

MARQUESA REELS
MARQUESA 2 Speed RRP NOW £429 £299
MARQUESA 2 Speed £499 £349
MARQUESA 2 Speed £539 £389
MARQUESA Heavy Duty £545 £399
MARQUESA Heavy Duty £579 £429
MARQUESA Heavy Duty £599 £429
MARQUESA Heavy Duty £629 £429

SPORTFISHER TROLLING LD REELS
20 Lure Drag Multiplier RRP NOW £149 £99
25 Lure Drag Multiplier £149 £110
Spools from £49

VAN STAAL
VR FIXED SPOOL REELS

A lightweight fully-machined reel that can be used with or without a bail.

VR125 RRP NOW £499 £379
VR150 £579 £399
VR175 £539 £419
VR200 £549 £429

QUANTUM
CABO SPINNING RODS

Quantum Cabo PT50
RRP £199 £199

LOWER PRICES
8' - 150g RRP NOW £199 £139
8' - 150g £209 £159

QUANTUM
CABO PT SEA REEL

Quantum Cabo PT50
RRP £199 £199

LOWER PRICES
PT 40 RRP NOW £229 £169
PT 50 £229 £179
PT 60 £249 £185
PT 80 £259 £199
Spare Spool from £24

okuma
MAKAIRA SE SALTWATER REELS

MAKAIRA SE
RRP £129 £129

LOWER PRICES
MR-80 SE RRP NOW £129 £129
MR-110 SE £149.99 £125
MR-135 SE £159.99 £129
MR-200 SE £169.99 £129

okuma
MAKAIRA REELS

MAKAIRA
RRP £129 £129

LOWER PRICES
MR-80 Big Game Reel RRP NOW £129 £129
MR-100 Big Game Reel £129.99 £125
MR-120 Big Game Reel £139.99 £129
MR-200 Big Game Reel £149.99 £129

Accurate
FIXED SPOOL REELS

SR-20 Twin Spin Fixed Spool Reel
The only spinning reels in the world with our patented Twin Drag-It feature. These reels can put out a lot of drag for these spinning enthusiasts looking to target big Tuna, Tautog, Bluffs, or any other hard pulling gamefish.

RRP £670 £749

DAIWA
SALTEGA MAG SEALED SPINNING REELS

10 Models in the range
£630 - £850

SALTEGA BJ SPINNING REELS
4 Models in the range
RRP £730 £650

FIN-NOR
TIDAL FIXED SPOOL REELS

FIN-NOR Tidal
RRP £129 £129

LOWER PRICES
TS45 RRP NOW £95.95 £69
TS55 £105.00 £75
TS65 £115.00 £79
TS75 £125.00 £89
TS95 **SOLD OUT**

BOAT ANGLER

24 pages of advice, tips and tactics for fishing afloat

The most valuable cod in history?

In this boat competition one angler scooped cash and prizes worth £40 an ounce

TO SAY CONDITIONS WERE challenging is an understatement, but the 144 anglers on board 17 charter boats out of Hayling Island managed to fish both days of the Northney Marina Cod Competition... and achieve some very surprising results.

Although I wasn't scheduled to compete, I managed to chuck a rod out on the second day in sheer desperation – but more on that later.

This hugely popular event is the brainchild of charter skipper Bex Florence, who runs Kelley's Hero III out of Northney Marina. This time she managed to convince boats to travel up from ports as far away as Weymouth, Poole and even Rye to compete. It was great seeing all the old faces I'd fished with over the years, and I couldn't help thinking that there should be more of these events where charter skippers travel to different ports for a couple of days.

Each morning there was a buffet breakfast (a full English, no less!) from 6.30am at the Langbrook Farm pub, and each evening there was a full-on carvery from 6pm – all included in the entry fee, which was £140 for the two days. There was even a bunch of comedians (debatable) laid on for the first night.

I can't fault the organisation of this event, it was one of the best that I have attended during my 25 years as an angling journalist.

The rules were quite simple. Each angler was allowed to weigh in their heaviest two cod each day to complete a two-day, four-fish bag limit.

Kim Bowden with his 4lb 5oz codling – worth a staggering £40 per oz!





**Roger Cooling
latches into
something
decent – but it
wasn't a cod!**



The pontoons were alive with excitement as anglers prepared for the event



Kelley's Hero III heads out for day two of the Northney Marina Cod Competition



The boats head out of the marina towards the Solent on a weather-hit day one

Overall winner would be the angler with the heaviest bag over the two days, while there was a prize for the first cod caught each day, and the first, second and third-heaviest cod each day.

There are optional pools for the heaviest whiting, conger and bass, which really opened up the competition. Do you set your sights on cod all day, or try for one of the other species?

As for the rules, anything goes. It's a one rod, three-hook competition, and boundaries are set each day by the organiser as to where the boats can and can't fish for safety reasons.

DAY ONE

I travelled down to Northney with my trusty photographer, Jim Midgley, and my pal Roger Cooling, who was fishing the event.

The wind was blowing a stiff south-easterly, and it was quite clear that this first day would be limited to the Solent, with no boats being allowed to venture around to the back of the Isle of Wight.

I had heard of a few cod being caught in the Solent a week or so previous, so expectations were high. As the boats left the marina, the radio was alive with skippers giving updates on the sea conditions. It transpired that it was going to be a bumpy ride down to the Solent,

but once there, it was more than fishable and relatively comfortable in the lee of the Wight.

After all the boats were safely anchored, the call was given to begin fishing, and all ears were on the radio for the signal that the first cod had been caught. Well, we waited, and waited, then eventually, about two hours into the competition, the news came that someone had caught a 'unicorn'.

Of course, that news spurred everyone else into fishing harder, and as a whole smorgasbord of baits went over the side there was a buzz of excitement in the air. However, that brief motivational radio call soon turned into a deathly silence, as the hours ticked by and nothing else was reported.

At 3.45pm the call was given to head back to the marina. There hadn't even been a bass or whiting caught, just one codling and a handful of strap conger eels. Hopefully, day two would prove better, with the forecast becoming ever more favourable for a venture offshore.

DAY TWO

As the anglers and skipper scoffed their breakfasts after a rather enjoyable night in the pub, there was talk of the boats being allowed to fish off the famous Nab Tower area. Again, you

could sense the excitement in the air down at the marina as anglers hurriedly bought fresh bait from the back of Andy's Baits' van and headed to their respective charter boats.

Once underway and out of the marina, the lead boats hit the radio to say that the offshore fishing was possible, and conditions had vastly improved from the previous day. Hopes were high for a decent cod, and thoughts turned to days gone by when 20lb and 30lb cod were the norm at this time of the year.

As the day progressed, the radio was yet again silent. Everyone was eagerly awaiting the call for the first cod caught on day two, but as time ticked on, hopes were being dashed and morale was at an all-time low.

That's when, in sheer desperation, I decided to chuck out a bait that swiftly resulted in a smoothhound. What was a hound doing there? Then Dave Harper latched into a bass, followed by another, and another. We then had a flurry of conger eels, with Roger Cooling boating a personal best 60-inch beauty weighing around the 20lb mark. Then we had another couple of hounds and some nice whiting, but still no cod.

As the call came for lines out at 4pm it was clear that nobody, not one of the 144 anglers, had managed to catch a cod, a truly epic failure.



Roger Cooling with his 20lb-plus conger, the biggest fish of the comp – it would have won him £164.50 if he'd entered the pools

CRAZY SITUATION

On the way back in, I called Bex to discuss the severity of situation. Where had all the cod gone? More importantly, how was she going to dish out the prizes?

It was decided that the one and only cod caught should indeed take all the prizes, which meant that local angler Kim Bowden would be walking away with £1,900 in cash, plus a week's holiday in Paul Whittall's house in Thailand – what a result! I actually worked out that Kim's cod was the result of 2,016 rod hours (144 anglers x seven hours x two days), and it was worth somewhere in the region of £40 per ounce (£1,900 + £700 for the holiday + £180 for the rod divided by 690z).

There were loads of bass caught on day two, probably because anglers began to realise that the cod were not going to show and that there were other prizes to aim for. There were plenty more congers, hounds and rays caught too, and, on this basis, I think next year's event may well be classed as a 'Winter Species Comp', with separate prizes for cod caught (if any).

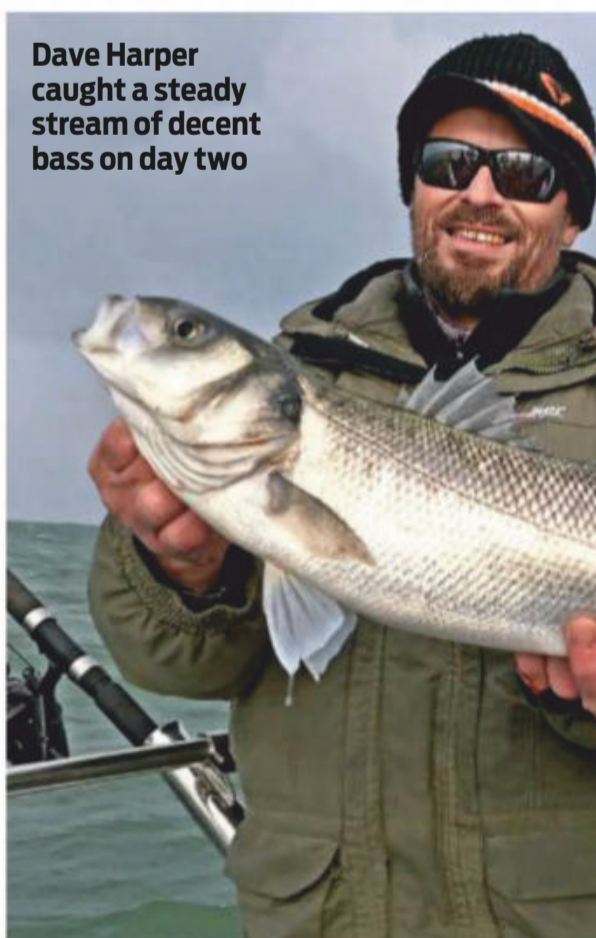
Keep a lookout on the Northney Marina Comps Facebook page for more details on this and all the other competitions they host throughout the year.



Dave Barham managed to catch a couple of smoothhounds on the second day



There were plenty of rays caught, including undulates



Dave Harper caught a steady stream of decent bass on day two

BELOW: Dave Barham (left) and Zac Cairns (right) present winner Kim Bowden with his cash and prizes



WINNERS

Prizes were £1,000 plus a week in Thailand for the heaviest overall bag of four cod (two per day), £500 for the heaviest cod each day, £250 for the second-heaviest cod each day and £150 for the third-heaviest cod each day.

■ Overall – Kim Bowden (above, middle), 4lb 5oz, £1,000.
■ First cod – Kim Bowden, DB1 boat rod.
■ Heaviest cod – Kim Bowden, £500; 2 Kim Bowden, £250; 3 Kim Bowden, £150.

■ Day Two (no cod caught, replaced with whiting): 1 Richard Wheeler and Luke Fogden, 2lb, £250 each;
2 Fat Simon, 1lb 14oz, £250;
3 Steve Costick, 1lb 13oz, £150.

OPTIONAL POOLS

■ Day 1 – Conger, 51½ inches, Max Everitt, £155.75. No whiting or bass weighed in so rolled over to day two.
■ Day 2 – Whiting, 2lb, Richard Wheeler, £274.50; conger, 54 inches, Neil Deluchi, £164.50; bass, 9lb 12oz, Neil Deluchi, £320.25.

THANKS

A huge thank you to the sponsors – London Timber Buildings, Rose Transport, Paul's Thai House, Portsmouth Marine Training, Northney Marina, Weymouth Angling, Dave Barham Fishing, Andy's Baits, SAS Tackle and everyone else who donated prizes, along with the management and staff of the Langbrook Farm pub, who did a sterling job of feeding all the anglers and skippers.



PART 5



Wrasse

on soft plastics

Few UK sea fish species fight as hard or as dirty as a big wrasse. What's more, you can target them very effectively with lures

IT HAS BECOME QUITE APPARENT THAT wrasse have a rubber fetish, and there really is no other method as exciting or as rewarding than when fishing with soft plastics.

In recent years the soft plastic lure revolution has changed how many anglers fish for wrasse, both from the

shore and boat. There are five main species of wrasse available from most UK ports – ballan, cuckoo, corkwing, goldsinney and rock cook, the latter three being on the mini species list as they do not grow in excess of 1lb. Then there are two 'rare' breeds – the Bailon's and scale-rayed wrasse, again both mini species.

All of these wrasse can be caught on lures, namely soft plastics, with the smaller mini species readily falling to LRF tactics. However, it's the larger ballan wrasse that I'm going to concentrate on here. I've managed to catch them to just under 5lb on soft plastics, and the fight they give on lure fishing kit is second to none. ▶

Jim Midgley with a
lure-caught wrasse



TOP COLOUR

Over the years I have found that green lures regularly out-fish any other colour, and I have proved this time and time again over in Wales and along the south coast. A close second choice would be brilliant white, but for me it's the green lure that I go for first every time.

As far as lure patterns go, I have had great success on small Fiiish Black Minnows, which have an articulated jighead attached, and the superb HTO Sea Minnows, which need to be fished on a fixed jighead.

The method is a simple one, being about as basic as lure fishing gets. All you need to do is drop the lure down to the bottom, slowly lift and drop the lure just a foot or so, making sure that each time you bounce the jig on the seabed below. You can flick the rod tip to impart a little more action into the lure if you wish, which can sometimes help trigger a wrasse to attack.

The one thing that this form of fishing gives you that fishing with a baited rig does not, is a direct line to the fish with no extra lead weight swinging around.

LIGHT TACKLE

To get the best sport when fishing afloat, you need the correct tackle. There are far too many different makes and models of rods to list here, but as a guide you should be looking at a medium-to-heavy spinning rod, something like an 8ft 10-40g blank is just the job.

The choice of reel should be matched to the rod, like a 3000-sized fixed-spool reel loaded with 15lb or 20lb braid.

I prefer braid and it works extremely well for wrasse fishing because it allows you to keep in contact with the lure at all times, feeling for the lumps and drops through the rocks. When a wrasse takes your lure you feel an immediate rattle through the braid to the tip of the rod, and then all hell breaks loose!

I normally use a 3ft length of 15lb or 20lb fluorocarbon tied directly to the end of my braided mainline. Braid is not as abrasion resistant as mono, and the very nature of wrasse fishing means that you are going to constantly be fishing in among the rough stuff.

Not only that, but a stiff fluorocarbon leader also helps give better presentation, and, of course, helps mask the presence of your braid as fluorocarbon is virtually invisible underwater.

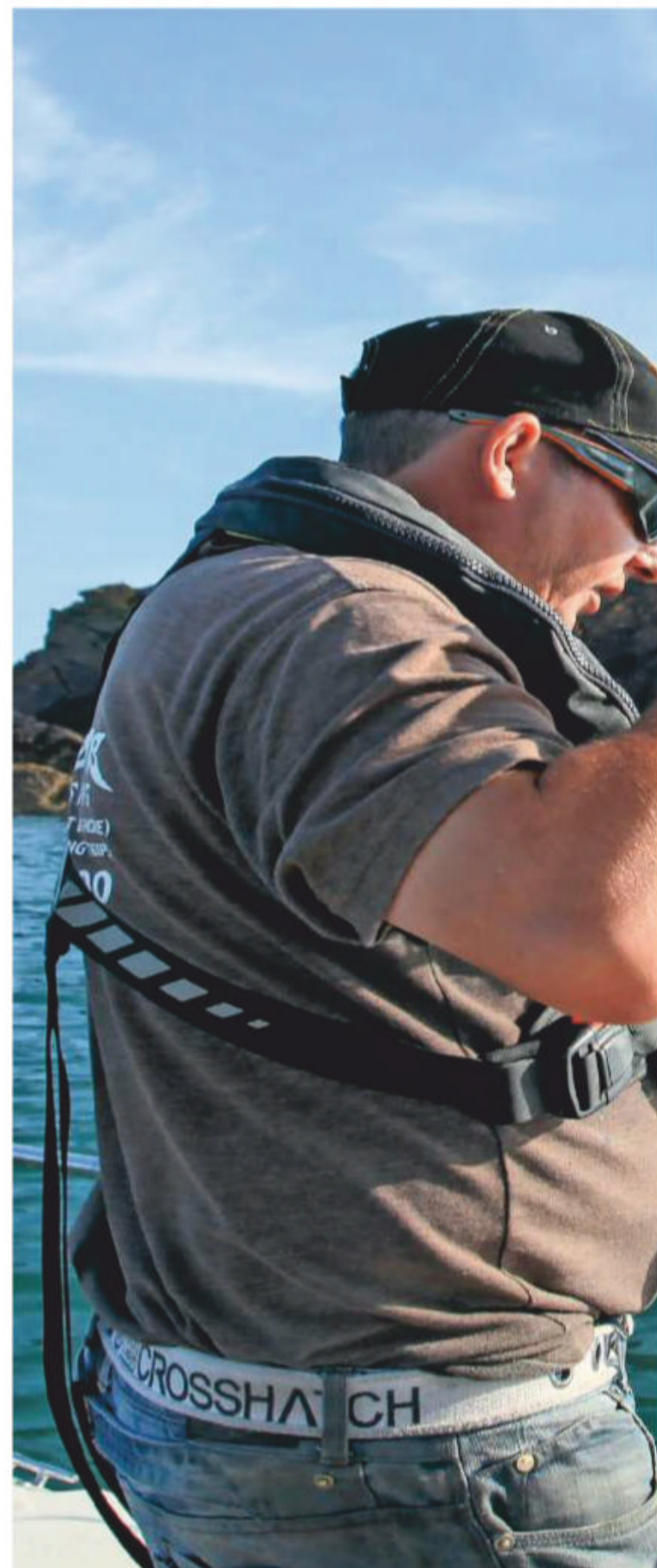
I always tie a Breakaway Mini Link to the end of my leader, which allows me to change lures in an instant if I want to. The set-up couldn't be more simple.

ON THE DRIFT

Unless you are fishing from a big catamaran, where all the anglers are on one side of the boat, the drift will either drag your rig away from the boat, or you will be fishing under it.

The easiest way to rectify this is to go heavier in your choice of lure or leadhead. By doing this you can stay in contact with the seabed and keep your lure fishing straight up and down, which not only increases the chances of you feeling the tiniest of nibbles, but also helps to prevent getting snagged.

Having lowered your lure to the seabed, as the



boat drifts slowly over the area, gently lift the rod tip and then lower it back down again, feeling for the 'bump' as your lure connects with the rocks below. The gentlest of movements lifts your lure slowly, and allows it to move enticingly, which helps grab the attention of wrasse in and around that area.

It's normal when lure fishing for wrasse for the bite to be savage – you get a thumping great hit as the wrasse engulfs your lure and makes a run for cover.

GREAT SPORT

I managed to grab some great wrasse sport in 2018 over in Dale, Pembrokeshire, fishing with lure guide Jimmy Lemon.

He specialises in three main species, bass, pollack and wrasse, from his boat Bang Tidy, and although this trip was all about the bass, we did take a break for a few hours to mix it up





Lure guide Jimmy Lemon at one of his wrasse marks – note the rocks in the background, it was the same under the boat

a little and headed to one of Jimmy's favourite wrasse marks.

The session got off to a flying start, with all three of us (Jimmy, Jim Midgley and me) getting stuck straight into the wrasse on Fiiish Black Minnows. There were so many wrasse down there that we had the opportunity to try different lures, and on this particular day, almost everything we threw at them worked.

Although we didn't manage anything over 3lb, the fish we did catch provided some real rod-bending sport, especially as we had all switched over to my DB 7ft, 7-35g, four-piece travel lure rod.

It had been a couple of years since I'd enjoyed such hectic wrasse sport with lures, and this session rekindled my love for the method, so it's definitely something I'm going to be focusing on in 2019. Hopefully, having been inspired by this article, you'll give it a go too. ■

NEED TO KNOW

■ **Awesome Fishing (Bang Tidy), Jimmy Lemon, tel: 07428 162600. Email: info@awesomefishing.co.uk**



If you can't go green, go white



BOATFISHINGWITHBARHAM

Session savers

How to target the dabs and transform a slow day afloat

REGARDLESS OF THEIR SWEET taste, dabs are not at the top of our target list when planning a great day afloat. They are the smallest of the UK flatfish and, despite weights recorded in excess of 2lb, are generally widespread in the 8oz bracket.

A dab that exceeds 1lb would be considered a great catch, unless you're fishing in Norway or Iceland, where the average size is 1lb-plus.

Often, when the winter cod fishing has died away and even the whiting are scarce, the good old dab can turn a slow day into an action-packed session – you just have to scale down your gear and actually target them.

The dab is easily identifiable when compared to other flatfish such as the flounder and plaice. They have a white underside and normally a light brown topside. Dabs have light spots on the top that are more a yellowy-orange colour than the striking red of a plaice, yet occasionally they are misidentified by anglers, especially when the fish small.

A key way to be certain that it's a dab is to run your fingers along its back, from the tail to its head – dabs have a rough skin to touch, with quite a rough and pronounced lateral line.

The flounder has a mottled greenish-brown colour on its topside, occasionally with dull red spots. A plaice, on the other hand, has a smooth topside when rubbed either way.

Commonplace around the whole of the UK, dabs can be routinely found in waters between 20 and 40 metres in depth. The habitat of a dab can vary, but most are caught over

clean sand or mud. If you travel to Norway or even the northern ports of the UK, the chances are that you are likely to encounter the 'long rough dab', which is very similar to the regular dab, except it is much longer and slimmer in appearance.

TACKLE AND BAIT

The choice of rod and reel is dependent on the ground, depth of water and tide of the particular mark that you are fishing. The lighter you can fish, the more fun you're going to have.

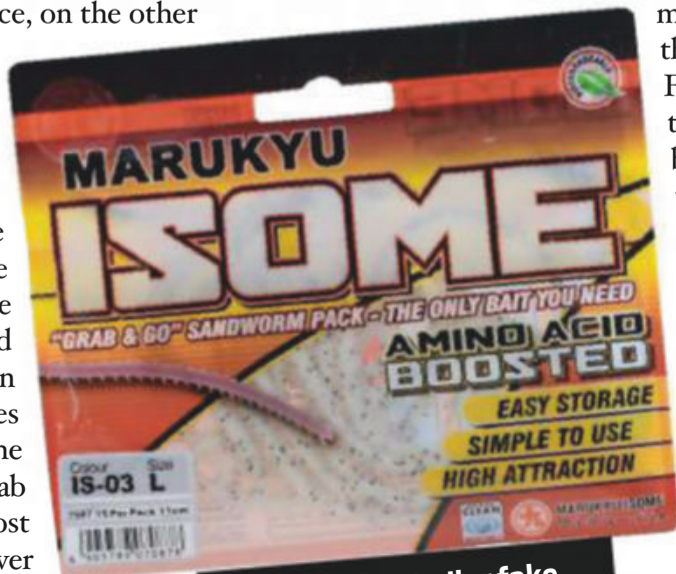
A 7-35g lure rod matched with a fixed-spool reel, in the 3000 size, loaded with 10lb braid would be my choice, but in some cases you can go even lighter and use dedicated LRF tackle.

For general boat fishing, though, if you can't get away with using less than 30z to hold bottom, I would suggest a 12lb-class boat rod with a really soft tip.

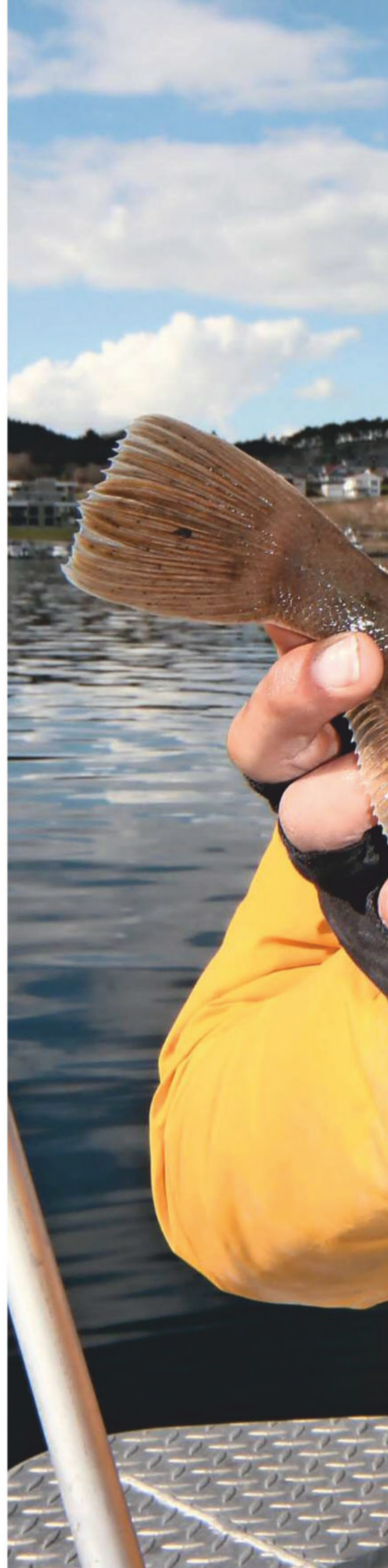
Dabs have a varied diet that includes small crustaceans, worms and fish. As anglers, we tend to use various worm baits, often tipped with fish or squid.

Just like other flatfish, dabs will readily attack a moving bait, and it's quite common to catch more dabs on the drift than laying at anchor. This is further qualified when reading various articles and exploits of other anglers where they concentrate on LRF methods, and in particular the use of soft plastic baits. For instance, it's noticeable the number of small flatfish being caught on slightly twitched baits.

Boat anglers can adopt similar tactics with soft plastic baits during a day afloat, whether at anchor or indeed on the drift for targeting all manner of flatfish. I've seen dabs caught on Isome worms over in Norway, so I know the tactic works. ▶



Isome and similar fake worms work for dabs, especially when fished in shallower water





Bunches of maddies,
or, in this case, fake
worms, can prove
deadly for dabs

Sticky black lug tipped with squid is a superb winter bait

RIG AND BAIT

When looking for dabs, your chances of a double or triple shot are usually good, so two or three-hook rigs are the norm.

It's important to keep the rig as tight to the seabed as possible – a three-down scratching rig fished off a boom is the correct rig choice. The rig body needs to be around 4ft long, with the three hooks spaced equally along the body.

Use 40lb line for the body and 20lb fluorocarbon hooklengths, which is ample for all fish that may take the baits. However, additional care needs to be taken when landing anything bigger than a dab.

Flatfish respond to attractors. Plaice especially are regularly caught using a vast array of colourful beads and sequins on the snoods in addition to the baits. Dabs are no different, and 5mm beads in either a bright yellow and red, or red and luminous combinations have been proven to work well.

Hook choice is crucial, bearing in mind that

“A hook with a longer shank helps with presentation”

Dabs will readily hit baits with attractors added



The average size of dabs in Norway is 11lb-plus. You will also encounter long rough dabs there too

the vast majority of baits being used will be worm-based, so a hook with a longer shank will help with good presentation.

With dabs having fairly soft mouths, a fine-wire hook can be used when targeting them specifically; something like a fine-wire Aberdeen pattern in size 2 is a good starting point.

A ragworm or rag tipped with squid can be a lethal cocktail for dabs from a variety of ports. Small harbour rag (maddies) bunched together can result in some very good-sized specimens, especially when fished on the drift over undulating sandbanks.

Similar to when fishing for plaice, the worms are bounced slowly over the seabed depressions seeking out the ambush points of the larger dabs.

In many areas, especially during the winter, sticky black lugworms are one of the best baits available. Sticky black is the name given to black lug that has been frozen, thawed and refrozen a number of times. The process dries out the worm and leaves it very sticky to touch and also with a very strong smell.

The worm can be used in a couple of different ways, either threaded up the hook and just passed over the eye of the hook and then tipped off with a sliver of mackerel or squid. This sliver helps prevent the worm from slipping along the gape of the hook and masking the point.

Alternatively, with a baiting needle and some elastic, you can prepare some black lug sausages to offer a solid piece tipped off, once again, with mackerel or squid. ■

UNLOCK EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE DETAIL WITH NEW **MEGA** **IMAGING+™**

Those aren't leaves. They're crappie—plain as day—thanks to the clarity of MEGA Imaging®. Using this high-frequency sonar, you can easily see fish and structure to find productive water more quickly. And with new MEGA Imaging+™, there's absolutely no place left to hide, thanks to extended range and depth, plus 20% more detail than MEGA Imaging.

Visit **Humminbird.com** to learn more.



© 2019 Johnson Outdoors Marine Electronics, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



NOW SEARCH AREAS UP TO 200 FT BELOW AND TO EITHER SIDE OF YOUR BOAT.
AVAILABLE ON SELECT SOLIX® AND HELIX® SERIES MODELS.
NOW FROM A 7" - 15" SCREEN.

Humminbird is distributed in the UK & Ireland by Marathon Leisure

www.marathonleisure.co.uk | sales@marathonleisure.co.uk



ROBUSTBOATS

Aluminium Boat Specialist

Bespoke Design & Build Service



• Dive Boats • Alimal Ribs • Work Boats • Landing Craft • Fishing Boats •

www.robustboats.co.uk

Tel: 01437 729355

Robust Boats. Unit 11, Broadlands Enterprise Park, Ninewells, Solva, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. SA62 6BR



**HANDLING
SELF-DRIVE
BOATS** PART 1

Ready to drive?

Hiring self-drive
boats is popular,
particularly for
fishing in Norway





Getting to grips
with any new
boat takes time



AFTER MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS of anticipation and hard saving, a couple of flights, a long drive and possibly a short trip or two aboard a ferry, finally you arrive at your self-catering cabin at one of Arctic Norway's many fishing camps. Even your luggage has completed the journey unscathed.

With perfect weather conditions beckoning and your self-drive boat waiting fully fuelled and ready to go at her berth at the camp dock, it's hardly surprising you are excited at the prospects of catching some of the incredible fish that first attracted you to travel to these richest of rich seas. Maybe you or one of your party is experienced at boat handling or perhaps you own a boat, but, for many, assuming the role of skipper will be a new experience.

If you fall into the former category then a run through of the camp's rules and operating policy from the fishing manager, followed by some on-board familiarisation, should see you safely on your way. If, however, you fall into the latter, inexperienced category, I suggest you suppress your enthusiasm to fish and spend an hour or two getting to grips with the boat, before heading out to sea. Here are five main areas to consider to get the best from your hire boat...

1 NOMINATE A SKIPPER

At all of the many camps I've fished throughout Norway, the fishing manager, or another nominated person, will brief you on the boat when you arrive. My first piece of advice is to pay full attention to what he or she has to say.

Typically, there will be three or four in your party who will be fishing aboard your boat, and if this is the case, I suggest that straight away one of you is nominated as the skipper.

Boat handling is not especially difficult, but getting to grips with a new boat and finding out exactly where everything is and how it works does take time. Even with more than 40 years of boat-handling experience, it still takes me a few hours to become thoroughly comfortable running a new boat, just as it takes a while to get the feel of a strange car. It's not so much actually driving the boat, but getting the hang of what's what and where everything is, and how to operate the electronics.

I suggest that only the nominated driver goes down to the boat to meet the manager for this initial familiarisation session. This will give him the best opportunity to go over everything slowly and in a methodical way, with time to ►

ask questions and actually listen to and absorb the answers. If the whole crew descend on the boat, complete with mountains of fishing tackle, things will very quickly become noisy and confused. It is likely you will not get the most from this important familiarisation session.

2 KNOW THE BOAT

Before you even begin to think about driving the boat, there are a lot of things you need to note. Where is the fuel tank, and is it full? At most camps, boats are handed over at the start of the week with a full tank and expected to be handed back at the end of the week in the same condition, but it is good practice to start each day or new fishing session with a full tank.

You may not plan to go more than a few miles or stay out more than a couple of hours, but once at sea and the fish start biting plans can, and often do, change.

Is the engine petrol or diesel? An obvious question. This past season a crew at Skjervoy fish camp refilled a petrol-driven outboard's inboard fuel tank with diesel, resulting in a lot of valuable fishing time lost, not to mention incurring considerable additional and unnecessary expense.

Where are the life jackets and the fire extinguisher? Don't just accept that they are "in that locker," but open the locker and check them. Indeed, on day one life jackets should be handed out to each crewman, tried on and correctly adjusted, then ideally worn at all times.

Most boats have a battery isolator, or two, which should be switched off at the end of the day to prevent power drain, and obviously back on when you next go fishing. Make sure you know exactly where this is and exactly which position is on and which is off, because it's not always self-explanatory. Just imagine waking on a perfect morning, enjoying a full cooked breakfast then setting out for a day on the water. You step aboard your hire boat, the skipper turns the ignition key and nothing happens. The power was left on overnight and the batteries have gone flat.

You will need to fully familiarise yourself with the engine's starting procedure, making certain you know how the kill cord works, and that you know how to smoothly operate the gear shift and engine trim.

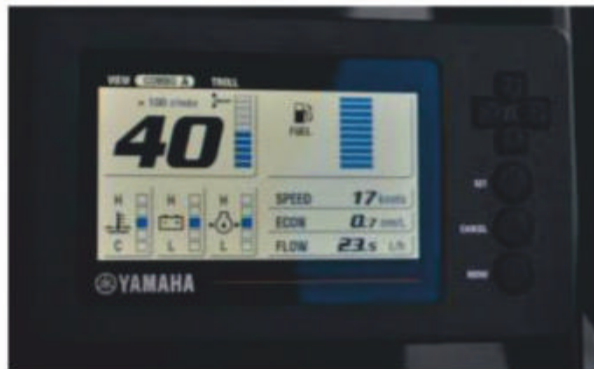
Spend a few minutes running through all of the switches operating various lights, windscreen wipers, bilge pumps and electronics, and checking they all work. Finding out the wipers don't work when punching your way back through heavy rain or sloppy seas throwing sheets of spray over the windscreen is not a great



Self-drive boats for the fantastic fjords



experience. Wipers not working are usually the result of a loose wire or blown fuse that can be very easily fixed.



3 TRY THE GADGETS

Marine electronics are not difficult to operate, but you need to spend time playing with them in order to figure out how to quickly navigate your way through a particular manufacturer's menu-driven system. Once again, the manager will run you through these, and don't forget to ensure the unit's language display is set up in English. Better still, why not get him to set up the displays in a format you like and understand, then all you will need to do is switch on the unit when you go fishing?

I always spend as long as it takes to orientate myself around the various menu fields and other functions before I leave the dock on day one.

International law states that in order for a marine VHF radio to be used aboard a boat, at least one person aboard must hold a valid VHF operators certificate. Clearly this is not always possible with self-drive boats, consequently, none of the many self-drive boats I have used in Norway have been fitted with a VHF.

Camps rely on mobile phones to keep in touch with their boats at sea, and visa versa. Yes, I know mobile phones are not ideal, but from much personal experience I have found that the network coverage throughout even the remotest northern fjords is very good.

Ensure you have the relevant contact number or numbers for the camp and manager written

down, and stored aboard the boat not in your cabin. Likewise, ensure this number is saved in every one of the crew's phones, and obviously make sure your phones are fully charged whenever setting off for a day's fishing.

4 CHECKS & WEATHER

Finally, take a thorough look around the entire boat checking inside all lockers, noting and photographing any existing damage, which you should bring to the attention of the camp manager before you sail on day one.

Check you have a gaff or landing net on board, and buckets for washing down and emergency bailing. Note the position of all mooring ropes. Do these stay on the dock when you sail, or do they remain aboard the boat? If the latter, ensure they are safely stowed and cannot fall overboard and foul the propeller.

Note the location of all fenders because a lot of serious damage can be caused to the boat's hull if she is not securely moored and correctly protected with sufficient fenders.

Each day a fresh weather update should be posted in a prominent place at the camp: read it. Regardless of what your various mobile phone weather forecast apps have told you, if the camp says it's too rough to fish, then it is too rough to fish, end of argument.

Take note of the camp's limits of operation inside which you must remain at all times, regardless of how good or settled the weather is. Running just a few more miles further from these limits, even under perfect conditions could well take you outside of mobile phone range, which is not a good place to be if you encounter a problem. If you do encounter a problem and for some reason are unable to report it, then clearly the camp will start looking for you where you should be, rather than where you shouldn't.

5 DRIVING THE BOAT

If you have never actually driven a boat before, have a few attempts at leaving and returning to your designated berth



under close supervision of the camp manager.

Most close-quarters handling problems occur when a boat is being driven too fast. When operating a boat, the slowest speed is usually the best.

Remember that when you pull back from forward gear into neutral, the momentum of the boat will keep her travelling forward for a distance proportionate to the speed at which you were running. Anticipating this and remembering that as long as you have forward momentum you will also retain steerage, is the key to berthing a boat.

If you think that a particular manoeuvre is not going as planned, then almost certainly it isn't, so rather than push ahead to 'see what happens' stop, back off and reposition in open safe water, and have a second attempt.

Once faced with open water and a calm sea, many anglers have one speed – flat out. Fuel, like most other things in Norway, is expensive, and the faster you run the boat the more fuel you will use, invariably by a considerable margin. Taking things slowly is not only safer and more comfortable for all on board, but also more economical.

Many new boats today are fitted with electronic gauges showing you exactly how much fuel you are burning at any given speed. The extra fuel burn to run at 30 knots rather than 20 knots will provide just a few extra minutes fishing time, at the cost of a serious dent in your credit card.

Clearly, if conditions are not calm you'll have to run at slower speeds, with the exact speed being dictated by the sea conditions and the type of boat. Regardless of all of these variable factors, if the hull is slamming while underway, you are driving the boat too fast for the prevailing conditions; no argument, so slow down.

■ *Next month: Advice on finding fish within a large Norwegian fjord.*



Make yourself familiar with all the controls

■ For more info on self-drive fishing trips throughout Norway, including Skjervøy Fish Camp where this feature was based, contact Anglers World Holidays tel: 01246 221717 or visit: <https://anglersworld.tv>

TOP NORTH NORWAY SEA FISHING CENTRES

SKJERVØY

SEA FISHING IN NORTH NORWAY



BOOKING NOW FOR 2019

TORSVAG

SEA FISHING IN NORTH NORWAY



FROM ONLY £436pp

NORTH NORWAY: Big catches of huge cod, coalfish and halibut. World class sea fishing, top self use boats, stunning scenery, fish the land of the midnight sun in peak summertime. Skjervøy and Torsvåg are filling up fast for prime summer months, great off season offers also available.

CALL OUR BOOKING HOTLINE 01246 221717 FOR MORE DETAILS



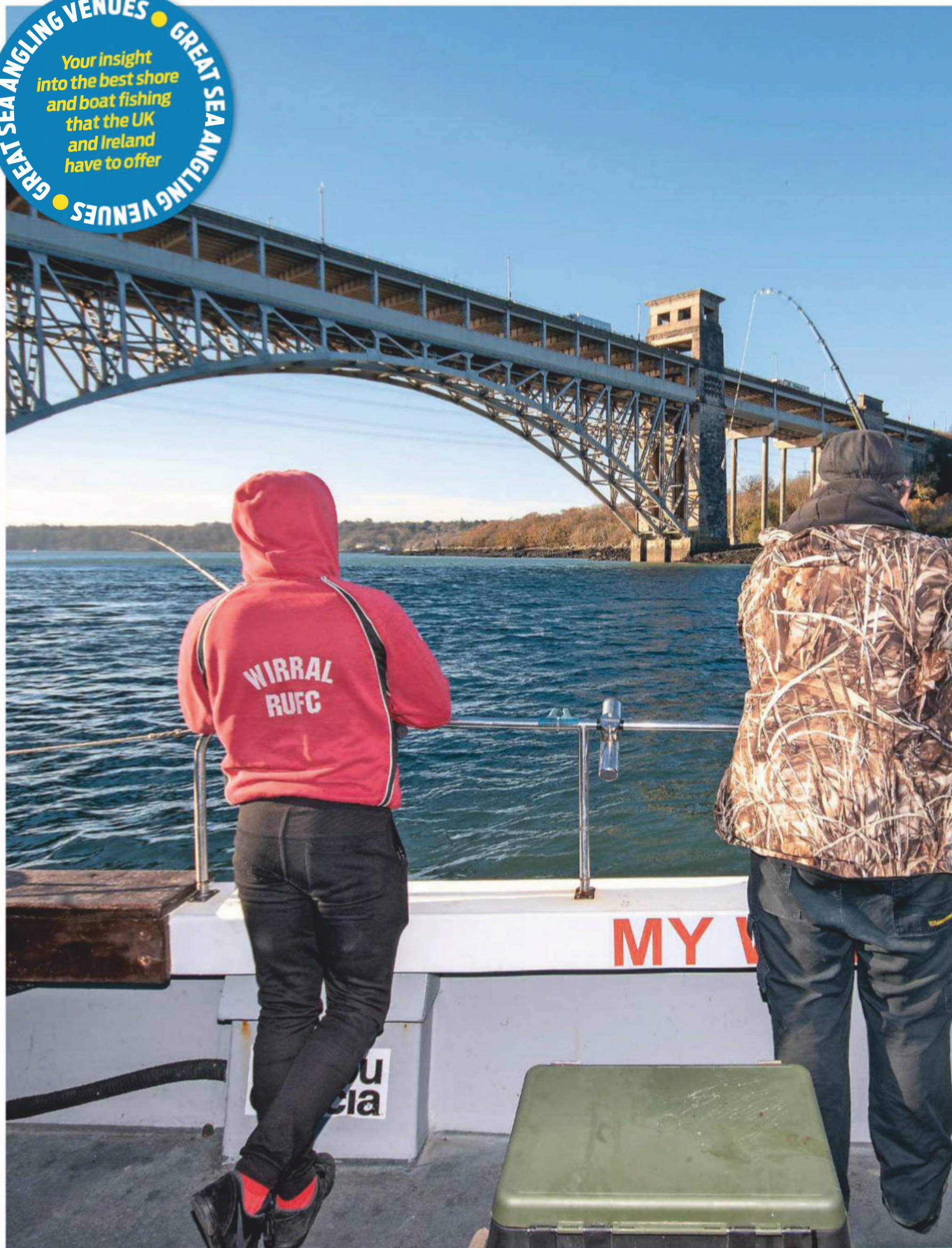
01246 221717



ABTA BONDED for your financial protection

facebook.com/AnglersWorldHolidays
twitter.com/AnglersworldHol
youtube.com/user/anglersworldlive

CALL OUR EXPERTS TODAY FOR THE BEST DEALS



Strait & Narrow

Some 16 miles long and only 400 metres wide at its southern entrance, this famous waterway offers a huge variety of angling



Top: A huss from the offshore ground
Above: Britannia Bridge with the suspension bridge in the background
Below: A whiting taken on mackerel strip



THE MENAI STRAIT HAS LONG BEEN popular with shore anglers, small-boat owners, and local charter skippers, not only for the consistency of its fishing but also for the shelter it offers in all but the very worst of conditions.

I've fished here from shore and boat for more than 30 years but, being honest, not that frequently over the past two decades, purely due to a full annual fishing diary. In some ways I'd lost touch with it.

Friend and local charter skipper Gethyn Owen, normally based in Holyhead, Anglesey – which is very exposed to the weather – decided to move for the main winter months to a new mooring at Port Dinorwic Marina. This offered a perfect opportunity to book a couple of trips to sample the boat sport in this unique venue.

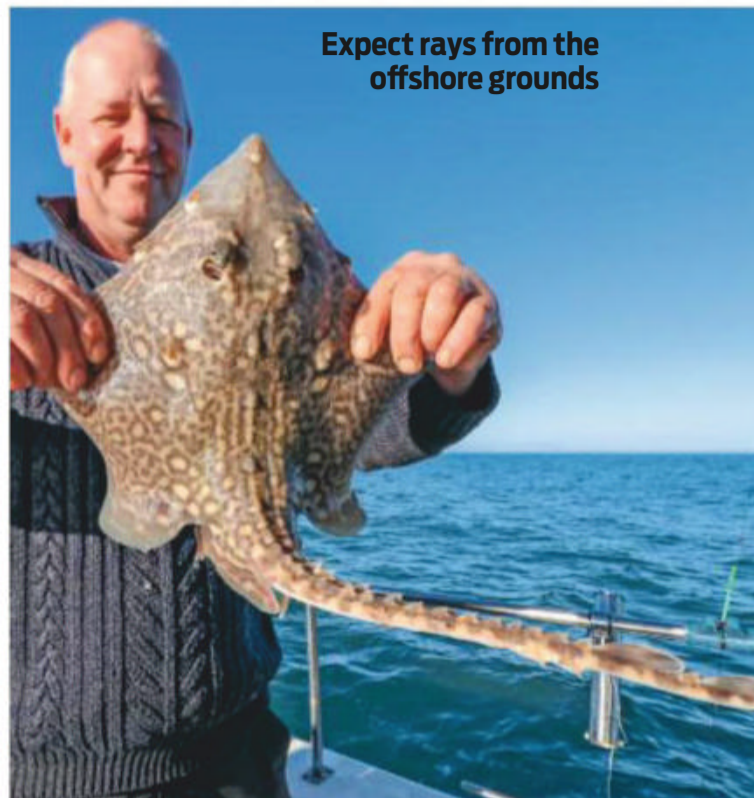
Some 16 miles long and only 400 metres wide at its southern entrance, the Menai Strait separates Anglesey from the mainland of North Wales. Its name is loosely derived from the welsh words “main-aw” or “main-wy” meaning narrow water.

Its main channel is about 50 feet at its deepest, though at low water it shallows to just a few feet between the two famous bridges – the Menai Suspension Bridge, built by Thomas Telford, and Britannia Bridge, constructed by Robert Stephenson.

The area between the bridges is known as The Swellies. Being such a narrow waterway, the tidal flow is squeezed and therefore quickly reaches speeds in excess of 10 knots (around 12mph) during bigger tides. ▶



A calm day on the Menai Strait



Expect rays from the offshore grounds



A sizeable whiting



A nice codling for Mike Thrussell

NUMEROUS MARKS

The Strait offers varied ground features, including sandbanks, mixed ground of sand and rock, and heavy rough with kelp weed. In parts you'll also find mud. That tells you that you'll be fishing a variety of marks within the day, with a high chance of bagging plenty of species.

The tides govern where and when you fish. Gethyn gets the maximum from the day by fishing several marks, each at their peak times. He'll move regularly according to the changing flow and strength of the tide.

There are numerous marks of a mixed nature east of the marina as far as the bridges, where the bottom gets rough and will keep you busy, but to the west, past Caernarfon Castle, there is cleaner ground that produces a host of alternative species.

Some of you will remember the prolific numbers of cod this area used to produce. The numbers of codling are still there, but these are generally small fish, but there are still some nice fish to 3lb, with the exception being an occasional four or five-pounder.

However, just a few hundred yards from the entrance to the marina you'll be hitting good numbers of whiting along with fat dabs. Whiting go in cycles size-wise; one week producing smaller fish to under 1lb, then, as the tides start to build, the bigger fish of, say, 1lb 8oz appear among the smaller ones, making for some steady fishing. These close-to marks are the ones you'll fish when the tide is running at its strongest.

BRITANNIA BRIDGE

As the tide eases, you'll be heading east towards Britannia Bridge. Here a top tactic is to drift through the gaps between the bridge supports in the main channels.

A good edge is to use smallish, bright tinsel feathers, and you'll target pollack up to 3lb, coalfish and winter herring if you keep the weight just bouncing on the bottom.

Feel for the rock ledges that drop away on the Swellies side of the channel and the bulk of the fish will be sat behind these, sheltering from the tide. Alternatively, don't rule out the chance of a big bass even in the winter, when a whole small coalfish or herring deadbait fished just up off the bottom might just get you that big bonus.

Towards slack water and the early run, a move to mixed rough or mostly rough ground is on the cards on the south side of the bridge. If you're going to get the better codling this will be the place when fishing black or blow lug baits. Combining the two is the best option by tipping the blacks with a couple of juicy blow lug.

A frozen or, if you're lucky enough to have some, a fresh crab bait can be a real edge, along with mussels, for the cod. Smaller baits, including squid and mackerel strips, pick up pouting, poor cod, whiting, sea scorpions and the occasional strap conger eel.



Mackerel strip gets bigger whiting

This same ground is also good for a wide range of mini species including black and rock gobies, corkwing and goldsinny wrasse and, if you're really lucky, tadpole fish.

King rag is the best all-round bait for a wide range of species. Smaller baits, including ragworms, are best fished with a series of luminous green beads. Due to the fast-flowing tide, the Strait always carries some sediment that inhibits water clarity, so the luminous glow near the bait can be a bonus.

Gethyn has his favourite conger marks, but tends to fish these when a collective group specifically want to target the eels. These spots tend to be in the deeper, rougher ground holes, with plenty of straps up to 10lb, but with 20lb-plus fish possible.

When the small-boat clubs used to fish here most weekends a fair few competitions were won with big congers or cod from these deeper holes. If you're fishing for congers, use a whole squid or mackerel fillet, or combine the two. I



Double-figure rays are highly likely



A fine dab taken on a lugworm

also like a big Bluey bait due to its excess oil, and it takes any crabs a bit longer to whittle it down, giving congers the time to find it.

GOING SOUTH

In this era of changing weather patterns and fish habitation, huss are now a predictable target, especially on the ground to the south of the marina in the vicinity of Caernarfon Castle. The banks hold a lot of whiting and dabs, and the huss seem to come in here to capitalise on this untapped food supply.

Gethyn's boat, My Way, has seen huss well into double figures, but when I was aboard we had them to about 5lb, albeit in consistent numbers. The huss take squid and mackerel baits, though I'd choose a fresh small whiting with the flanks well slashed with a knife to let the blood and juices flow.

When fishing for the huss, don't necessarily go for a lighter lead weight, and trot the bait away with the tide. Often a huss, or several huss, tend to come straight into the strongest source of the smell. Keeping your bait in with the others tight behind the stern in this situation can see more fish caught overall, but do experiment.

This ground can also see some of the biggest dragonets I've witnessed, some being a deep almost luminous blue. You'll get these when targeting whiting and dabs. The latter can also be uncommonly large early in the year when their numbers peak, with fish of 1lb or so quite possible here.

All the above marks are fishable throughout most weather patterns due to the sheltered nature of the Strait. Given calmer seas and steady high pressure, you could go west through the southern entrance to the Strait to target rays and huss off the west coast of Anglesey or down the towards Nefyn. Double-figure thornbacks and huss are highly likely, along with large numbers of whiting, dabs, pollack, coalfish and a few codling on the rougher ground.

The Strait offers a host of consistent opportunities for varied species throughout the winter through to the end of March, but with the bonus of allowing Gethyn to access the open sea when the winter weather is kinder, boosting the choice and potential.



EXPERT CHOICE: TACKLE AND RIGS



Carry a range of lead weights

For the general fishing over the clean sand, and the mixed rough ground, most anglers choose a soft-tipped rod between 9ft and 11ft.

For example, try the Shakespeare Tipsters or the Penn Squadron version, armed with a 5000 sized fixed-spool reel and braid between 20-30lb. These are the hire outfits that Gethyn has aboard.

The soft tip gives increased bite detection, but the extra length also allows the lead weight to be flicked further away from the boat, when needed, to cover more ground and offer a degree of uptide potential.

The rough-and-tough conger fishing is best done with a 20lb-class boat rod about 8ft long and matched to a multiplier reel loaded with 30lb braid and a 60lb mono leader to take the abrasion.

The above two outfits cover you for 90 per cent of the fishing within the Strait, and also for the open-sea fishing.

When fishing over the clean sand and targeting numbers of fish, go for a flowing trace with three hooks on short snoods below a boom. This covers a lot of ground and targets all the species. Hooks should be a size 2, but I also make a few rigs with size 4 and 6 Aberdeens to allow me to use smaller baits, if required, for smaller species.

If you use fluorocarbon for the main flowing trace, you'll cut down on potential tangles. I like the hook snoods kept short to about six inches off the main trace and about 18 inches apart. In addition, this rig can be gently trotted away with the tide to cover even more ground.

In the mixed rough ground, when fishing for general species, I prefer a one-up, one-down rig with 14in hooklengths of 20lb fluorocarbon and size 2 Aberdeen hooks. This keeps two baits in the feeding zone tight to the seabed.

If you fish a three-hook rig vertically, the top hook is usually just wasting bait and gets few bites.

For cod, go for a 30in flowing trace made from 30lb fluorocarbon on a running leger. The hook would be a single size 4/0, with no need for a Pennell when targeting codling.

The same rig can be used for the congers, but increase the hooklength to 60lb and use a size 6/0 hook.

As for lead weights, with braid you can usually get away with 12oz or less if you trot away, but I carry a few leads in increments between 3oz and 1lb too. ■



Luminous beads work well with small baits in the coloured water



PORT SPOTLIGHT

LOWESTOFT

The marina at this port town gives fishing boats access to some superb sport throughout the year, including excellent bass, rays and winter cod



DERIVED FROM AN ANCIENT VIKING name, Lowestoft is a busy port and one that is steeped in history. Some of the earliest evidence of settlement in Britain has been found here, dating back some 700,000 years.

The town and port were built on the back of the fishing industry in the Middle Ages, and it continued to thrive right up until the late 1980s, when the commercial fishing industry declined and the port focused more on container ships rather than boats full of herring. Today it is still a very important landing place for modern traders and, of course, for pleasure anglers.

GREAT FISHING

Throughout the year there are plenty of species to target out of Lowestoft, but perhaps the most sought after are thornback rays, tope,

bass and smoothhounds during the summer, and cod and whiting during winter.

Most of these species can be found relatively close to shore, and there are plenty of deep holes, sand/mud banks and wrecks within a 10-mile radius of the port.

The winter cod fishing can often be some of the best you'll find on the East Coast, with 40-50 fish coming to the boat in a session. It's well worth persevering with a whiting livebait on one rod during winter. Doing this could well bring a larger cod to the net.

TACKLE TIPS

The fishing out of Lowestoft can vary depending on the target species, so you'll need to contact your chosen skipper to discuss exactly what you'll be fishing for on the day.

Trips are often mixed days, where you will catch a wide range of species, but some of the skippers run species-specific trips, especially

for tope and bass during the summer.

As a general rule there are three rods that will cover all eventualities. Much of the summer sport involves anchoring and uptiding, so a decent uptide rod and reel combo will do the job. A 12/20lb-class boat rod will cope with any downtide fishing at anchor for species like tope, cod and rays. Then you'll need to go for either a spinning rod or a 12lb-class boat rod when drifting for bass..

As far terminal tackle, anything goes. Use light kit for the bass and smoothhounds, then step up a notch for the summer tope and winter cod.

When it comes to rigs, a running leger is about as simple and effective as it gets.

The real key to success is bait quality and presentation. Fresh peeler crabs, hermit crabs, mackerel and ragworm baits work well during the summer, while local lug and squid are the winter staples.



CHARTER BOATS AND SKIPPERS

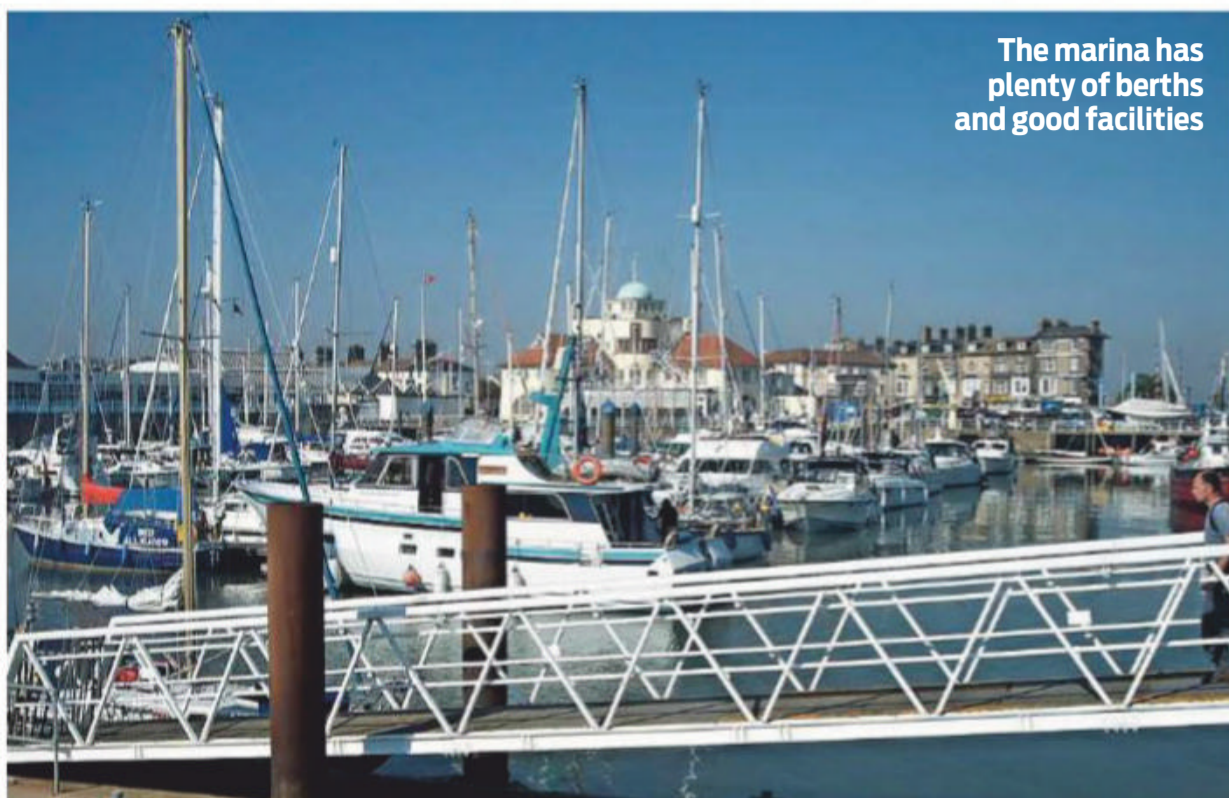
- Cleveland Princess, Brian Poppy, tel: 07771 926590.
- Lead Us, Colin De Brock, tel: 07803 270798.
- Lowestoft Provider, Andrew Wood, tel: 07855 520433.
- Off The Hook, winter only at Lowestoft, Jake 07852 959528.

GREAT MARINA

Lowestoft Marina is well geared up for visiting anglers and boaters. There are toilet facilities, plus a great little café and a museum. The postcode for the marina is NR33 9NQ. For more info you can visit: www.lowestoftmarina.net

TACKLE SHOPS

- Oulton Broad Fishing Tackle, The Boulevard, Units 6 and 7, Bridge Road, Lowestoft NR33 9JS, tel: 01502 539593.
- Tackle-X-Change, 2 Essex Road, Lowestoft NR32 2HH, tel: 01502 508989.



The marina has plenty of berths and good facilities



The lure fishing for bass can be superb out of Lowestoft

Above: Don't dismiss using a livebait during the winter months to tempt a larger cod

Below: There's no shortage of thornback rays off Lowestoft





Hard won cod

Battling the conditions
pays off with a few cod
off the Suffolk coast





WITH A LIGHT OFFSHORE wind it was time to go fishing, and because I'd bargained for a weekend session, it would give me the chance to fish with some of the guys I don't see very often.

My alarm went off early and I heard the patter of rain. I don't like rain, but I do like fishing, so I dragged myself out of bed. I left early and pulled up at the car park at Corton, Suffolk, where Frank Burden and James Leech, who was full of cold, awaited my arrival. They both hoped I would cancel, but to no avail. They begrudgingly got suited up.

Aaron Napper turned up next, then Tim Weston, and with us all sorted we made our way down to the beach, 90 minutes before high water in the hope the flow was now manageable.

We got Aaron launched first, then laughed at Frank as he hooked his PFD and battled the shore dump while attached, his kayak approached vertical, and then he was out.

We followed. It was quite a swell considering that conditions should have been perfect, but no matter.

As it was his first time here, we got Aaron anchored. He shot backwards as the stretch came out of his warp and I floated rapidly downtide. I paddled up past him and dropped my own anchor. It was so fast that instead of ending up alongside, I was beyond shouting distance downtide, slightly further out. A four-minute mile kind of day.

NEW KIT

I cast out. It was my first time using my new 7ft boat rods and lever-drag reels. The charter boat Lead Us steamed past on its way north, while Cleveland Princess was out for a recce with another boat Wader Bay, while High Flyer was out but not in sight.

Tim was alongside me and we were both solid. Frank and James were down from us and Aaron was suddenly catching us up – his anchor has pulled. I called over to him to release it, paddle in and come back out in half an hour when the flow had decreased, but he couldn't hear in the wind. ▶



New 7ft boat rods teamed with lever-drag reels

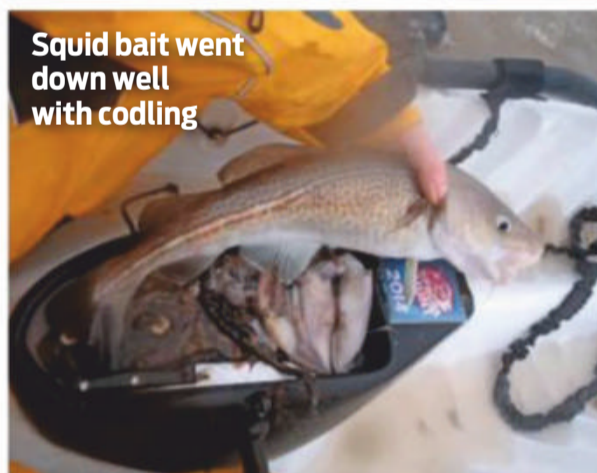
He continued downstream and so did James. Soon Frank called up that he'd caught his first fish. I told James to head in with Aaron and wait, but he'd gone over to assist anyway. A friend in need and all that. We watched as the two of them battled four knots of tide for a while to land level with us an age later. Bet that hurt! Tim and I were getting loads of snatch bites, but nothing was connecting. They were mostly whiting, but two more pulls that screamed cod go unrewarded.

KEEPER COD

I stopped watching Tim and looked at my rod just as it moved. It felt nice on this rod. It felt nice in this tide. Soon the cod was in the tank-well under the net. There was not too much longer to wait, ten minutes maybe. With my hood up because the wind on my neck was grim, I got another keeper cod.

We could see James heading back up the ramp, his cold had got to him, but Aaron wasn't giving up. He came out through the shore dump with no trouble, paddled uptide and sufficiently inshore that he could drop anchor without causing problems for us and let his warp out like he'd done it a million times. The flow caught him out too, though, and he ended up further down than he wanted. He was right in front of me, but at an angle to his warp so I could still fish. He caught a cracking whiting within minutes.

I needed a whiting now, for a species competition. Out went the mini set-up too. I produced another cod, which was returned and then got my whiting. A good one too. I was happy with two species, two keepers and everyone safe and catching. Tim was waiting for



Squid bait went down well with codling

cod, but apart from him and Aaron the rest of us had had them. But what was Aaron doing? He appeared to need a stronger rod because his was bending too much. Except it's not the rod. He called over that he'd hooked a cod, easily bigger than mine. What a result! Of course, I convinced myself it was my cod, suggesting it had been heading up the tide to my juicy bait when it spotted his and wondered what it was, and got hooked accidentally while investigating. But I let him take the credit.

LOST AND FOUND

Soon after the yaks started to wander as slack approached and the wind took over. We hauled up, headed in and landed. I gave Tim one of my cod as he'd driven a long way for his first cod session of the season. Besides, he'd earned it.

Why? Well, when we came in that shore dump



Mark Crame found the Corton codling



All kitted out for kayak success off Corton

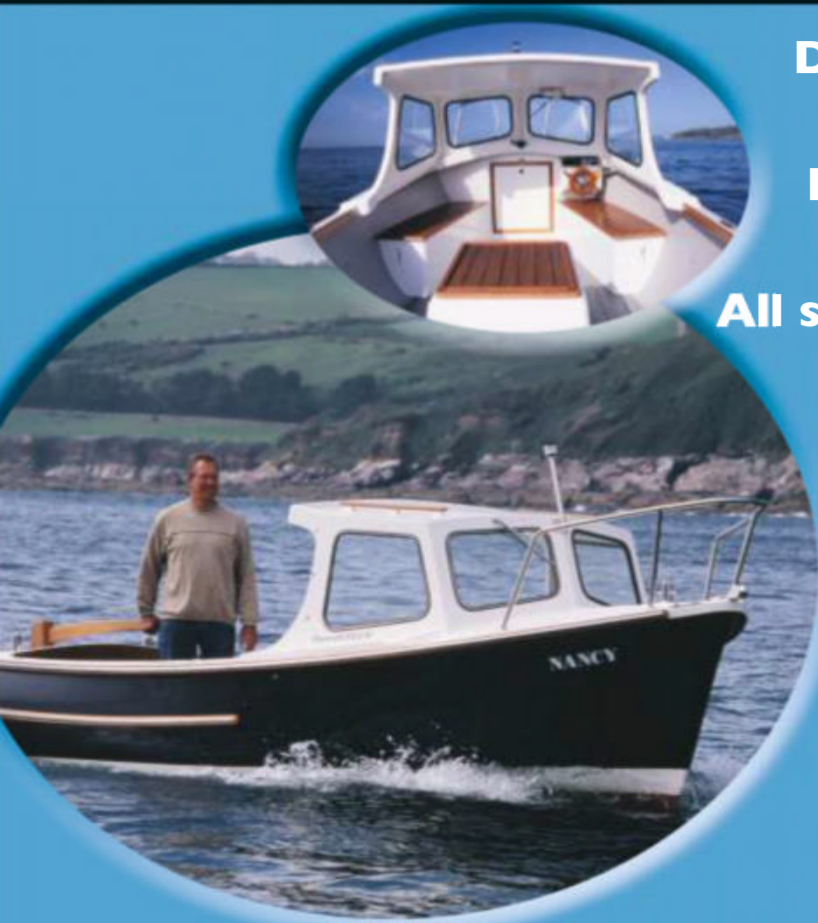
was in the way and so was a beach angler. Our launch spot was taken – and rightly so, we don't own it. We had to land south of the groyne. In I went and with my stern lifting on a wave I leant back, kept the nose floating and then it ploughed through the shingle. I was still upright. That wave passed under and the backwash got me. I got flooded by the next wave, turning the yak on its side and locking on to the chine. I managed to get out and haul it up the beach.

Trouble was, there was a gully and I was thigh deep. The next wave picked up the kayak sideways and it came at me. I held it, and stayed upright, but there was water everywhere and one of my cod had gone. I hauled the kayak and started looking in the waves. Tim spotted it though, 50 yards up from us, so it was kind of his.

Tim and Frank landed, showing good skills, and Aaron picked his moment for an easy ride. Time to see the fish...his first Corton cod. ■

THE PLYMOUTH PILOTS

2019 - Celebrating our 50th anniversary year!



Displacement motor launches.

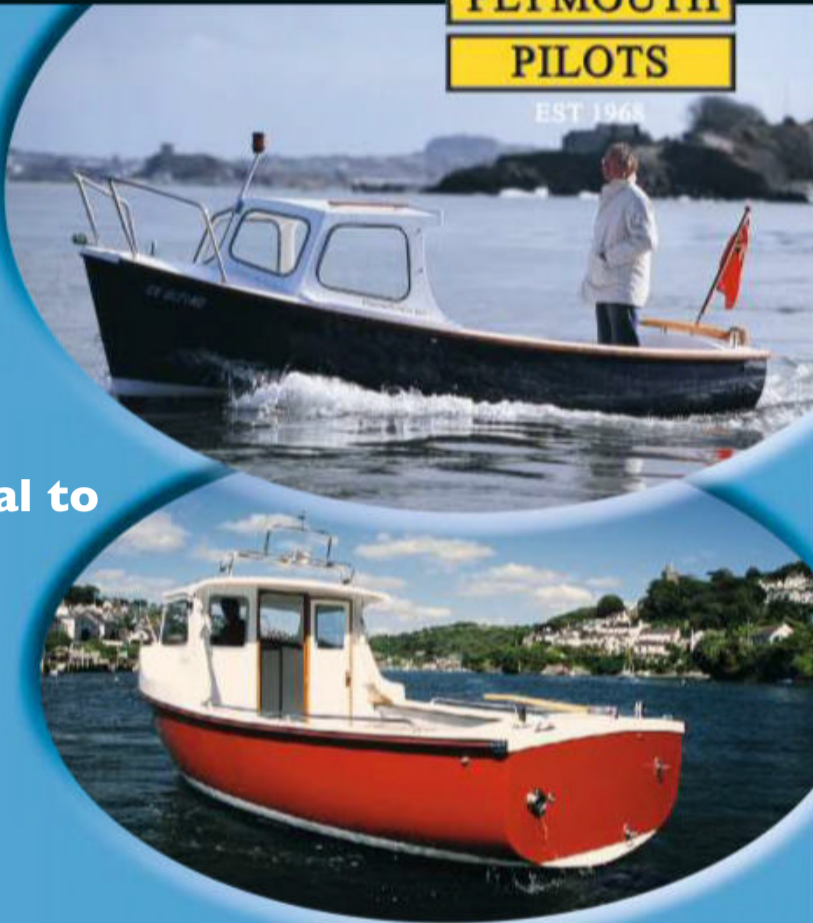
Easy to handle. Very economical to run.

All structural components in glass fibre and trimmed in teak.

Every boat individual to customers spec'.

UKs number one displacement manufacturer.

Mouldings and engine packages available.



GLASS REINFORCEMENTS PLYMOUTH, THE WORKS, WIXENFORD, PLYMSTOCK, PLYMOUTH. PL9 BAA
www.plymouthpilots.co.uk

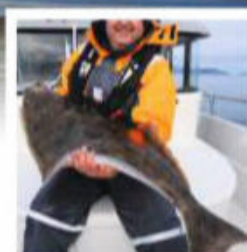
PLYMOUTH PILOTS 16' 18' & 24'
TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE TEL: (01752) 482588

Lauklines Fishing & Adventure Centre

Only 30km from Tromsø City in Northern Norway

- 6 High Standard Cabins for max 6 persons each
- 23.5 feet Arronet SPT self skippered rental boats with 150 HP Yamaha & Lowrance Chartplotter/Echosounder
- 32 feet Kloster Patrol skippered charter boat with 2 x 300 HP Yamaha. Fully licensed.
- Sole Charter or individual booking.
- 5 or 8 Hours trips with professional guide

Sas.no &
Norwegian.com
offer flights from
UK to Tromsø



Lauklines
KYSTFERIE

Offer High standard cabins, rental boats
and transfer from/to Tromsø Airport
www.lauklines.no

Explore the Arctic

Offer Guided fishing trips with charter boat.
Regular departures from harbour at Lauklines
www.explorethearctic.no

GET INTO SHORE FISHING PART 5

BEAT THE WEATHER

Follow our simple guide through your first steps in shore fishing. We'll help you to overcome any obstacles you might encounter along the way. This month we switch the focus to winter clothing...



WINTER

Wearing the correct clothing during a fishing session is vitally important. Before actually choosing what you wear, though, and throwing yourself into layers of clobber, there are some fundamental aspects that need taking into consideration.

Winter months are probably the most difficult to protect against. It's very easy to wrap yourself with multiple layers of warm clothing, but have you actually thought about what you're doing?

If you intend to fish a mark that involves a long and tiring hike, the last thing you need to be doing is wearing all your thermal protection, because after just a few minutes of trudging across energy-sapping shingle or sand, it won't be long before you're hot,

sweaty and damp. Then, when you actually start fishing, in just a short while those warm and damp garments you're wearing will begin to turn cold.

As the temperature drops, you'll soon become miserable, shivering and ultimately faced with the prospect of packing up and heading home.

It's far better and beneficial to pack dry gear in another bag and change into this when you reach your mark.

The same can be said for chest waders. Long walks in neoprene versions are a real nightmare. Again, strap these to your tackle box, or pack them in a bag and carry them.

It's easier to walk long distances in light clothing and a comfy pair of walking boots.

Don't be fooled by breathable chest waders either, because travelling long distances in these can still drain you.

Don't get caught out during summer trips. A long, hot day on the shore can suddenly turn chilly when dusk arrives. Always have a lightweight hoody or jacket with you, to prevent becoming cold.

TOP TIP: Don't wear chest waders or all your warm clothing on long hikes to a venue. Pack them separately and change into them when you arrive.

INNER BASE LAYERS

Thermal leggings and vest or top are brilliant for retaining body warmth when it's cold. These are much better alternatives and are incredibly lightweight.

Many anglers choose to wear jeans, but these can quickly become cold, and are even worse when wet. A much better option is to wear a decent pair of joggers instead. These retain heat incredibly well and are so comfy too.

Winter weather
can be very testing
for shore anglers



LAYERS

If you're wearing inner thermals, there's really no need to pile on the jumpers during winter. A good polo neck jumper underneath a hoody will often be adequate. Add a soft-shell jacket and you'll be extra toasty warm.



SEA SCHOOL

HOW TO BECOME A BETTER SHORE ANGLER



Wear the correct winter clothing and fish in comfort

MID-OUTER LAYERS

When winter arrives, icy winds, lashing rain, snow and hail will undoubtedly batter you. That's when you need to cover up considerably, and outer layers are probably your most important items of clothing.

First, make sure your outer layers are totally waterproof. Items that are simply showerproof aren't going to cut it.

These can come in various forms but are generally either one or two-piece outfits. Smocks, jackets and salopettes are certainly the most popular, along with flotation suits.

These outfits can vary in price and, invariably, the best items will be more expensive. A lot of anglers prefer to go for any range of Gore-Tex clothing.

TOP TIP: It's important to ensure that your outer layers are totally water and windproof.

FOOTWEAR

Many anglers make the mistake of wearing multiple pairs of socks in an attempt to keep their feet warm. Instead, wear a thin pair underneath a thick thermal set, just enough so your feet can move freely and allow the blood to flow.

A good pair of hiking boots with an insulated inner are brilliant, especially when standing on freezing-cold concrete or shingle. Many of these boots also have fantastic soles, with a

firm grip, which is essential when it's icy. Trainers are a non-starter, I'm afraid, as they are simply not adequate to keep your feet warm and protected.

Modern wellington boots are now equipped with super-thermal interiors, which in some cases can even be removed.

PREVENTING HEAT ESCAPING

Heat will escape through your head, so it's always a good idea to wear a thermal hat or cap. A woollen bobble or thermal beanie type is the best and will easily accommodate a headlight too.

On occasions, a good pair of thermal gloves may be needed to keep your hands warm. Some anglers prefer to wear fingerless gloves so they don't need to be continuously removed when baiting hooks.



TOP TIP: Placing a pocket-warmer into each pocket of your jacket or salopettes is a fantastic alternative to keeping your hands warm. They're cheap, lightweight and extremely easy to use.



A good hat and gloves help to retain the heat

NEXT MONTH: The focus is on species.



**SAVE
£82.99**

FREE P+P, UK mainland only.
Email for overseas rates

Get this superb shore outfit for just £99.99!

Take advantage of this incredible shore deal and save a whopping £82.99!

HERE'S A fantastic shore deal to kick your New Year off in style and save a huge wad of cash at the same time. This offer features a rod and reel, plus a stack of shore rigs to keep you fishing and targeting many species along the way.

Star of the show is the three-piece Daiwa Seahunter Z Surf rod – and you choose whether you would prefer the 14ft or 15ft outfit.

It's designed to cope with the everyday battering that shore fishing brings. Coupled with durability and toughness, the performance is superb. Both have casting ratings of 4-8oz together with lined, hard chromed aluminium oxide rings that are impeccably finished

with under and over-whipping. Other features include a fixed screw-winch fitting and neat foam handgrips.

Accompanying the rod is the Tronixpro Envoy 7000 fixed-spool reel. Featuring 5+1 bearings, with a cranking power of 4.1:1, it's ideal for conquering all of your winter beach sessions.

Not only does it possess enough grunt to beat a nodding cod, or a battling bass, it's also incredibly smooth and easy to master. The frame is lightweight and will certainly balance perfectly on the

Seahunter Z Surf rod. Other features include an infinite anti-reverse and powerful front-drag system.

It also boasts a high-capacity spool; it even comes with a spare. Finished in a super-stylish chrome, it's very reliable and a superb choice for all of your shore saltwater fishing.

Rounding off the deal is a Fisheagle rig wallet stuffed with shore rigs. Inside you'll find 2 x size 1/0 two-hook flappers; 2 x size 4/0 Pennell-pulleys; 2 x size 2 three-hook flappers; 2 x size 1/0 bomber rigs and a couple of 2/0 clipped distance rigs.

Normally, this lot would set you back £182.98 in the shops, but, it can be yours today, for just £99.99 – putting a cool £82.99 back into your pocket. Now that's a deal you cannot afford to miss.

Ordering couldn't be easier as we've now created three easy ways (below).

Simply give the helpful staff at the Fishing Megastore a call, place your order and leave the rest to them.



THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER

1. LOG ON to the link gac.fishing/00148SA

2. CALL 0141 212 8880 and quote 00148SA

3. BY POST Glasgow Angling Centre, Unit 1, 29 Saracen St, Glasgow G22 5HT and quote 00148SA

*Please make cheques payable to 'Glasgow Angling Centre Ltd'.

(*FREE P&P)

FOR MORE
UNBEATABLE
DEALS LOG ON TO
www.seaangler.co.uk
TODAY!

Words by John Holden

TAMING THE TWIST

Tricks of the trade for reducing problems with line

ALL FIXED-SPOOL REELS TWIST LINE to some extent. Owing mostly to their shallow spools and refined line lay pattern, modern reels twist line less than reels of old. I upgraded my ancient Mitchells specifically to make life easier in that department. These excellent old fishing tools are notorious for wringing a line's neck so badly that you never know whether the next cast will wrap the butt ring in a tangled web.

The principle of a fixed-spool reel guarantees some degree of line twist. As yet, no reel maker has eliminated it.

Twisting varies with model and size of reel, line diameter and type, and how often and how far we cast. I have reels where line runs smoothly for ages. Others demand reconstructive surgery after a single session. Constant management is the name of the game.

MODEST TENSION

The single most valuable step is always, always keep line under modest tension, most easily achieved by nipping it between finger and thumb on the retrieve.

This does little to reduce the number of twists going into the line, but it does help the line to pack neatly on to the spool, and thus stand more chance of escaping cleanly on the next cast.

Nipping also tends to concentrate the twists towards the shockleader end, which is why so many tangles seem to affect the first 20–50 metres of reel line.

There are a couple of easy ways to get some of those twists out at the end of a session.

I cast along the beach about 75 metres, put the rod in the rest then walk to the rig and cut the line just above the shockleader knot. I then wind in using fairly high tension, which has the effect of driving the twists out of the cut end of the line.

A similar way is to cast over grass, cut off the leader and then drag the line around for a while until the twists are combed out.

A friend of mine uses a hi-tech variation on the theme: he connects the end of the line to an electric drill and spins the twists out.

TWIST PRONE

I suffer most with line twist when I'm spinning. My reels are pretty old and twist-prone. Unlike beach fishing, where I might cast four times in an hour, here it's one cast after another that soon turns line into coils of spaghetti.

My way around this is to use two spools and a relatively short length of line – 75 metres is



plenty where I spin for bass. I fish with the first spool until the line is a mess. Then I put the second spool on to the reel and transfer to it the line from the first spool, thus swapping it end for end.

Because the line is reversed, every new cast takes some of the existing twist out. Eventually, it starts to build up again in the opposite direction, at which point I swap back to the first spool and repeat the exercise. ■

NEW SERIES KNOW YOUR SPECIALIST RIGS

Fiiish Black Minnow

Rated among the best soft plastics, are you using this innovative design?

THE FIIISH BLACK minnow is an innovative design, available in lengths from 70mm to 200mm to match the bait fish. There are also various jig head weights to suit the fishing depth and water conditions.

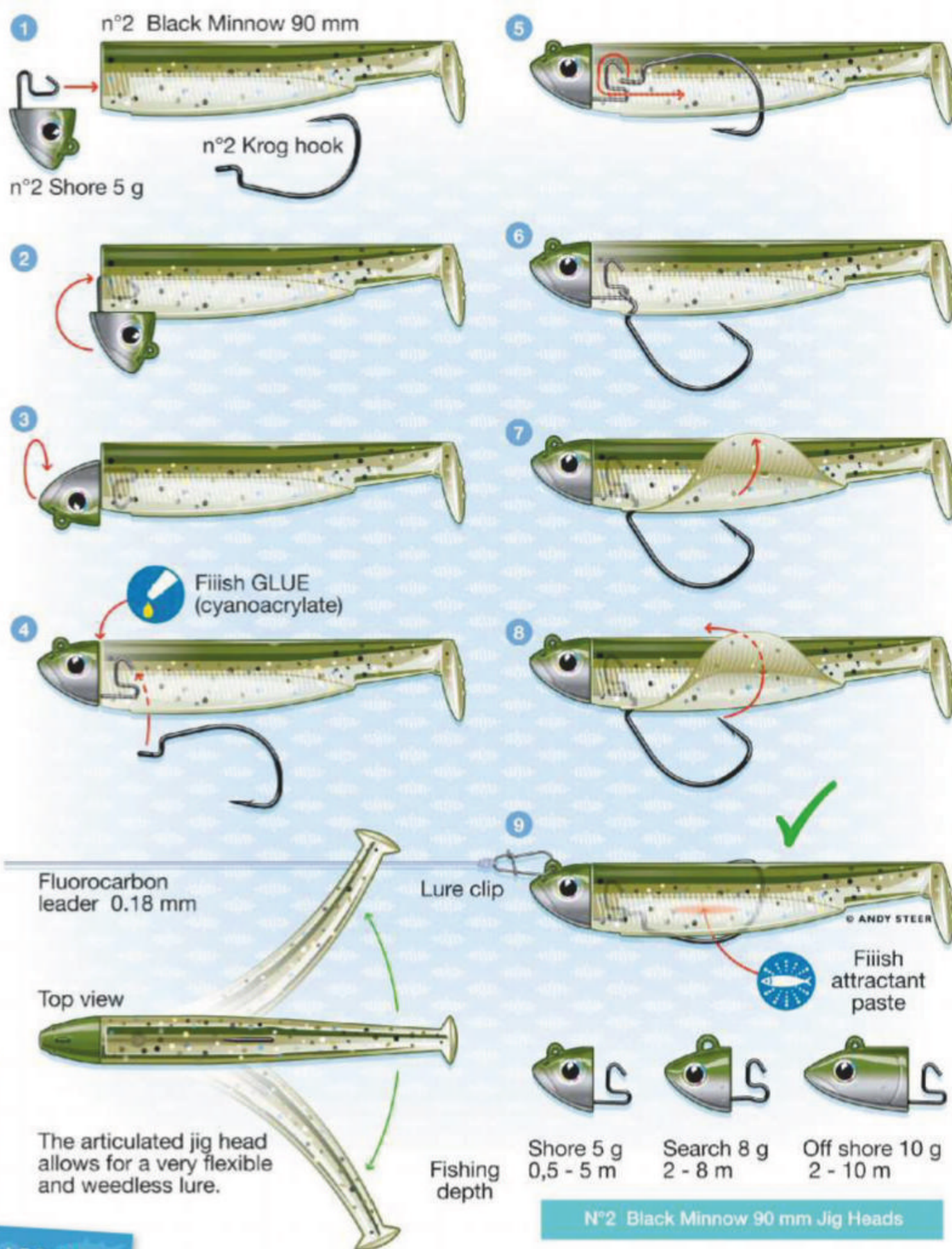
It is one of our lure expert Henry Gilbey's top five soft plastics (see page 94), and it has the backing of many leading lure anglers.

Andy Steer's diagram (right) shows how to rig a Black Minnow (here a 90mm version) with the jig head and hook.

Fiiish uses a colour code system to allow you to match the correct components by correlating the same colour tag or number of the jig head with the hook and lure body of the same colour.

Follow the simple nine stages to rigging up the Fiiish Black Minnow, by first turning the jig head upside down and pushing the rigging system into the hole in the front of the lure body. Twist the jig head inside the lure body, turn the hook upside down and put the eye over the rigging system wire.

Now turn the hook over the rigging system, so it sits in the rigging system, before bringing the hook to the top of the lure, but with the point remaining in the top layer of the lure (weedless). Using a rig clip on your leader, attach the Black Minnow to the line.



The printed edition of 'Light Rock Fishing - Hard Rock Fishing Knots & Rigs' is now available at <http://amzn.eu/d/ctqSCI9>. With the FREE Kindle reader app, you can read this book on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Free Kindle Reader app: www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=200783640



ONLINE LINKS TO THE VIDEO:
<https://youtu.be/xD0OpWbjHhQ>



Artwork by Andy Steer

THE KNOWLEDGE

CUCKOO WRASSE

They may not grow large, but their spectacular colours make these fish a welcome catch

A NATIVE to the north-eastern Atlantic, the colourful cuckoo wrasse is found from Norway to Senegal, including Madeira and The Azores. In some areas where this species is caught, it is an important food fish for local populations.

SPECIES

The name cuckoo wrasse (*Labrus mixtus*) comes from Cornish fishermen who associated the fish's vivid blue markings with bluebell flowers. In the Cornish language, a bluebell is *bleujenn an gog*, the cuckoo flower.

The male cuckoo wrasse normally has a blue head with a blue body and orange pattern and blue tail.

During the breeding season, the body coloration gradually changes to an orange head and body with a blue pattern that may be more pronounced at the head.

Female cuckoo wrasse have an orange head, body and tail, with a black stripe on the dorsal fin broken up by a number of white spots. Small female cuckoo wrasse are occasionally mistaken as being specimen-size goldsinny wrasse.

The average size of cuckoo wrasse caught around the British Isles is about 1lb



The females have the ability to change sex when no males are present in the area.

The average size of cuckoo wrasse caught around the British Isles is about 1lb.

The current British boat-caught record stands at a weight of 2lb 7oz 12dr, and it

was caught in 1998 off Dungeness, Kent.

WHERE AND WHEN

Cuckoo wrasse can be found at depths ranging from two metres to 200m, but more typically from 40-80m. Like most species of wrasse, they favour rough ground and are mostly caught over reefs.

Where suitable conditions exist, they are found the length and breadth of the British Isles. Cuckoo wrasse are rarely targeted afloat by anglers unless they are interested in species hunting, but they are frequently caught when targeting other fish. Be aware that cuckoo wrasse suffer badly from the effects of barotrauma.

The best areas to target them are throughout Devon and Cornwall, West Wales, Scotland, the rockier sections of the North East and the Channel Islands. The south and west coasts of Ireland also have excellent cuckoo wrasse fishing.

This species can be caught year-round, but spring through until the autumn invariably provides the best fishing.

TACKLE

The ideal outfit to target cuckoo wrasse is a medium boat rod, though where conditions allow, the use of lighter tackle would offer more sport.





A male cuckoo wrasse caught on a set of feathers



Simple paternoster rigs work too

RIG

Simple rigs are recommended because you are almost certainly going to lose terminal tackle to snags. A set of baited feathers or their modern equivalents will catch plenty of cuckoo wrasse, and most are taken as a by-catch by anglers using such rigs for other species.

If you prefer to tie more purposeful rigs, then a straight-forward one or two-hook paternoster featuring short snoods of about 6in to 8in of 30-50lb monofilament terminating in strong, short-shank hooks of size 4-1, such as the stainless steel Sakuma 410, are perfect.

BAIT

Cuckoo wrasse can be caught on a wide selection of baits. Crab is very effective, especially a piece of peeler. Worm baits such as ragworms and lugworms will catch plenty of fish, as will prawns, shellfish, fish and squid.

METHOD

The general method used when fishing for cuckoo wrasse is to fish on the drift, ensuring your bait covers more ground. It is important to ensure your bait is fishing very near to the seabed, where cuckoo wrasse live and feed.

Lower your rig slowly down until you feel the lead weight tap the seabed, then reel in a foot or two of line to raise it slightly above the rocks or weed. Keep holding the rod and keep confirming your baits are working in the optimum strike zone, which is within 2-6ft off the bottom.

At the first indication of a bite, start to raise the rod tip very slowly, and at this point the fish will invariably grab the bait before immediately turning and diving for cover.

As soon as you set the hook, start lifting the rod, simultaneously recovering as much line as you can in an attempt at turning the fish away from the bottom, forcing it into open water. ■

SEA SCHOOL

OUR EXPERTS SOLVE YOUR FISHING PROBLEMS

HOW TO ASK A QUESTION

Write to: Q&A, Sea Angler, Media House, Lynchwood Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6EA
Email: cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk
Online: www.facebook.com/seaanglermag

Q&A

SHORE FISHING

ASK THE EXPERTS

WHEN SENDING YOUR QUESTION, PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS



PAUL FENECH

Sea Angler's features and tackle editor Paul is here to solve your shore angling problems.



DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.



MARK CRAME

Suffolk-based Mark gets a thrill from fishing afloat on a kayak. Send him your kayaking queries.



HENRY GILBEY

Angler and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, will answer questions on lure angling.



ADAM KIRBY & DAN SISSONS

The Portsmouth-based duo fish ultra-light from shore and boat. They'll provide answers on light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic where size of fish is secondary to the fun of catching them.

Q: When I place the rods high to avoid the surf, the wind makes spotting a bite difficult. If I put the rods low, the surf bounces the tips. Am I doing anything wrong?

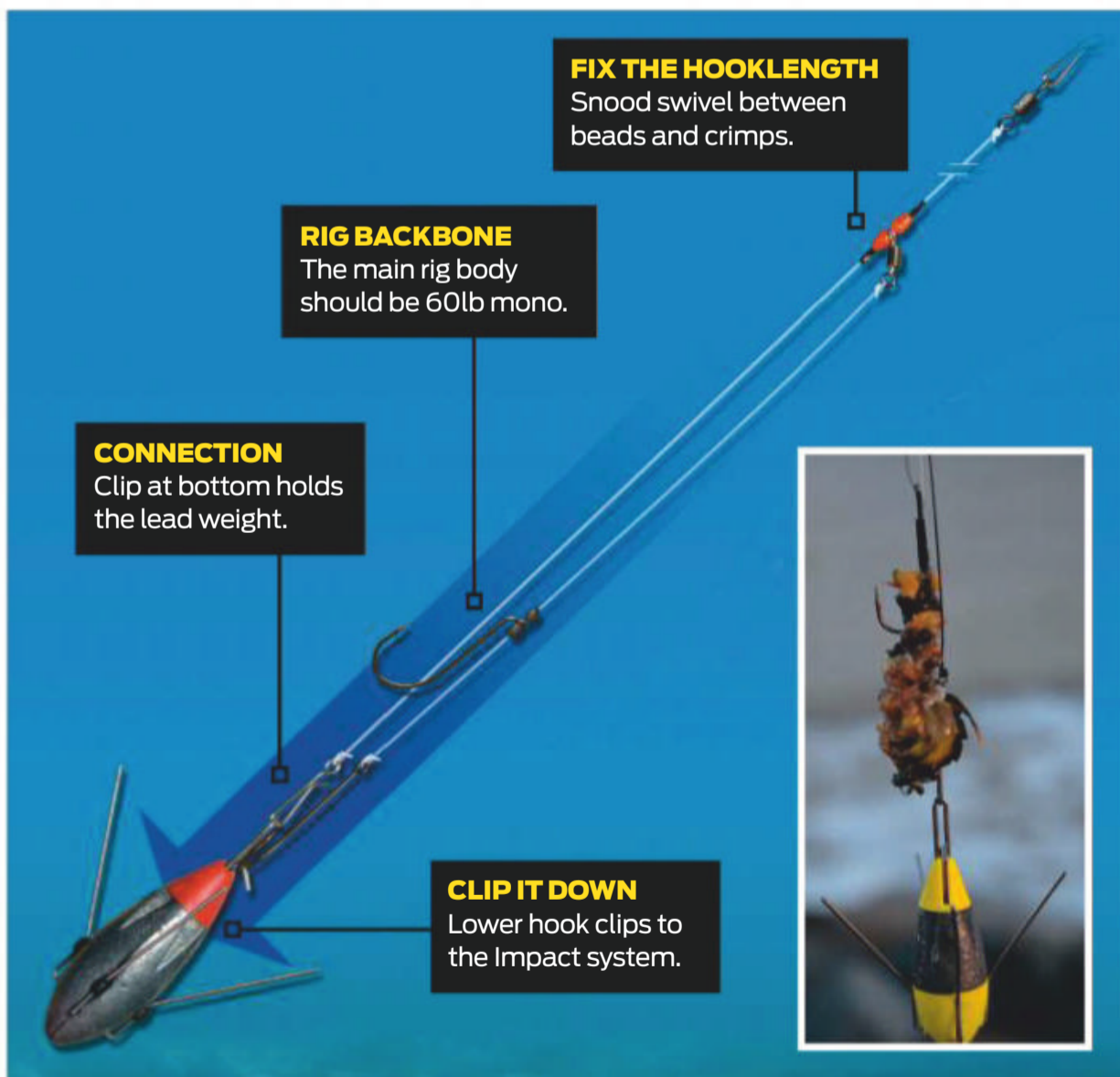
STEVE WILSON,
PATRINGTON, EAST YORKS

PF says: You're not doing anything wrong, because the problem seems to be all about spotting bites rather than surf or wind wobble on the rod tip.

When the rod is sitting in the tripod, it will soon get into a rhythm with wind and waves. As the tip dips and rises, you will quickly become used to this movement.

Any different movements out of sync with the rhythm, or if the line goes slack, is generally a bite.

STAR QUESTION



Q: I want to try and earn a Sea Angler Shimano Mission cod badge. What would be the best bait and rig to use to catch a decent specimen?

OLIVER VALLIS, BRIGHTON, EAST SUSSEX

PF says: Cod will feed on almost anything, so there's a wide array of baits you can use.

Popular winter baits to use are lugworms, squid, mussels and peeler crabs.

Cocktails are particularly worth trying as they give off a really pungent scent. The best rig to use is undoubtedly a Pennell (see diagram) because cod have large mouths.

Q: I've always used fixed-spool reels and have no idea how to set up a multiplier or even cast one. Are there any casting schools that can help me switch from a fixed-spool to a multiplier?

GRAHAM LATIMER, BY EMAIL

PF says: If you've never used a multiplier reel, it truly can be a daunting prospect when you eventually try for the first time. My advice would be to get some help from your local tackle shop, a fishing coach or casting instructor.

We have a list of casting instructors located around the UK, but not all areas are covered. Hopefully, there is one in your region. Contact our office to find out if there is one near, tel: 01733 395134.



WIN SONIK TACKLE WORTH £300!

Each month we'll select a winning question from each of our shore/LRF, boat/kayak and lure questions. Three lucky readers will get great gear prizes from sponsor Sonik. The sponsor reserves the right to send an alternative prize to an equal value.

■ BEACH

A full set of Sonik luggage and 10 Sonik Super Rigs worth £166.



■ LURE

Sonik Magna 7ft 6in, 3-12g LRF rod worth £49.99.



■ BOAT

Sonik S4 BR3 30-50lb boat rod worth £79.99.



Q: Is there a simple way to unhook an eel before it wraps itself around a rig and totally destroys it?

IAN SKINNER,
SHERBURN IN
ELMET, N YORKS

PF says: It's an age-old problem when landing a silver eel, and I've had many rigs destroyed by them.

I think the best action is to be quick, with the emphasis focusing on keeping the eel still.

Some anglers grab the fish with a towel, hold it on the floor, and then remove the hook. Others grip the head between two fingers to unhook.



Q: When I'm fishing from the Holderness Coast, I use 20lb braid with a tapered mono shockleader, but I often crack off when casting. Would you suggest a braid shockleader or use a braided mainline straight through?

JOHN GIBBONS, BY EMAIL

PF says: First of all, braid is not a shockleader and should never be used as one. I wouldn't suggest using braid straight through if you are power casting.

What I would recommend is that you increase your braided mainline to at least 40lb and then adding a mono shockleader. Check your rod rings for cracks because this could be damaging your mainline and shockleader.



Q: I use 20lb braid as a mainline, together with a 60lb mono shockleader. How often should I be re-tying the FG knot, or changing the shockleader

to avoid frustrating crack-offs?

JONATHAN STERNE,
BALLYMONEY, COUNTY ANTRIM

PF says: To be honest, shockleader knots should be checked regularly throughout

a shore session. Sand, shingle, weed and rocks can significantly damage any knot while sea fishing.

If you're experiencing regular crack-offs or line breakages, it may be worth checking the rings on your rod for cracks, as mentioned in the answer above.



Q: When fishing from cliffs into a rough sea for cod, what is better, short or long hook snoods?

DAVID RICHARDSON,
SUNDERLAND, TYNE & WEAR

PF says: I've always employed the same rigs I use from the shore when fishing from a cliff top.

My hook snoods are around 12 inches long, and I still seem to catch. When fishing in a rough sea, make sure you use enough lead weight to hold your rig on the seabed.



Q&A

LRF

Q: I tried the split shot rig but can't get my shot to stay in place. Any tips?

DEREK MONTEVILLE, BY EMAIL

AK & DS say: Get some rubberised, thin rig tube, cut a tiny section and thread it on the line where you mount the shot. Then secure the shot to the tube. Not only will the rubber tube help the shot grip the line but it will allow you to move it if the rig needs adjusting.



Q: Do the lure colours that work for wrecking, such as rhubarb and custard, have similar results in LRF?

BILL HUNNINGS, PLYMOUTH, DEVON

AK & DS say: Those same bright and dark lures definitely have their day with LRF, but the range of successful colours is much greater.

The colours that we favour for deep sea wrecking are most likely successful because of the effects of depth on colour. We'll never know what fish see, but we do know that deep water affects visible light. Thankfully, we don't have that challenge with LRF.

Natural-looking colours work best in clear water, but bright or dark colours do well in poor water clarity.



Q: I'm just starting out in LRF and would like to know what line you would recommend and how you would attach the lure.

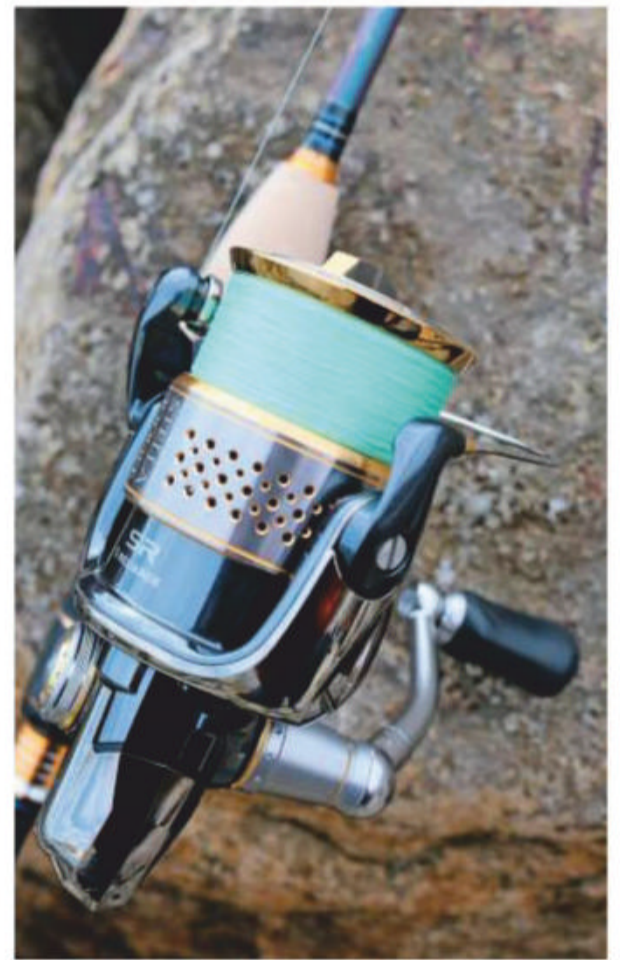
CARL DOCHERTY, CROWBOROUGH, EAST SUSSEX

AK & DS say: We'd definitely recommend a light braid for LRF mainline. Look for a braid categorised by a 'PE' number.

For LRF, a PE0.3 or PE0.4 would be a good place to start. In old money, you're looking for a braid with a breaking strain of between 4-6-lb. The aim here is to have the thinnest braid safely possible.

With braid you will need a light, fluorocarbon leader – 4lb is a good starting point. The uni-to-uni (double grinner) knot is an easy one to master.

With regard to the connection to a lure, more often than not we tie direct to the hook or jig head. But if you change your lure a lot, a tiny lure clip is an acceptable solution. Make sure it's really light so it doesn't affect the action of the lure.



Q: Can you tell me if it's worth trying LRF when the water isn't clear? I never seem to catch on lures when the water is dirty.

TREVOR SANDERSON, DEREHAM, NORFOLK

AK & DS say: Without doubt, when there is colour in the water and visibility is diminished, fishing with lures is often slower. Get it right,

though, and the results can be spectacular.

The key to success under these conditions is to fish tight to known fish-holding areas. You need to get your lure right on the nose of the fish, and you need to fish slowly.

If you can locate the fish, they are very likely to feed well, especially predators, because their reduced vision makes it harder for them to hunt and feed.

Increase your odds further by using a contrasting colour lure. For instance, dark lures on sand, or bright lures in weed.

SEA SCHOOL

OUR EXPERTS SOLVE YOUR FISHING PROBLEMS

Q&A

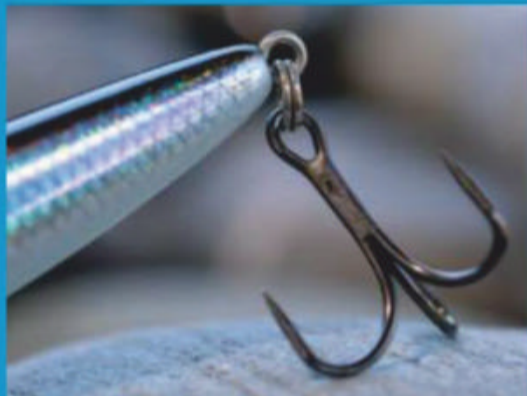
LURE ANGLING

Q: I want to try barbless hooks for bass fishing, but will I lose fish?

GEORGE LLOYD, SALTBURN, NORTH YORKS

HG says: In my opinion, categorically not, but only if you tighten your drag properly and fight fish hard by actually bending your rod into them and not being afraid to do so.

I have fished with only barbless treble and single hooks for my lure fishing for years now. I can't recall any incident in the past when I've lost a bass where I was at fault because I had crushed the barbs on my lures.



Q: If you could only carry one surface lure, what would it be?

SAMUEL DIXON, BELTON, NORFOLK

HG says: I guess I need to think back to the one surface lure that has consistently produced bass for me from the very first time I used it.

The surface lure I would simply not go bass fishing without is the IMA Salt Skimmer. This versatile long-casting pattern is the one I turn to for all manner of conditions.



Q: At what time of the year should I stop trying to catch bass on lures?

DAI WILLIAMS, CEREDIGION



HG says: I think it depends on where you live in the UK and also the weather and sea conditions we get as we move into winter. For example, I know anglers who live in Sussex and want flat-calm sea conditions to keep the water clear.

I get the impression their bass season comes to an end around, say, October, whereas, in my part of Cornwall, if we get favourable conditions then I have had really good shore fishing for bass right into January.

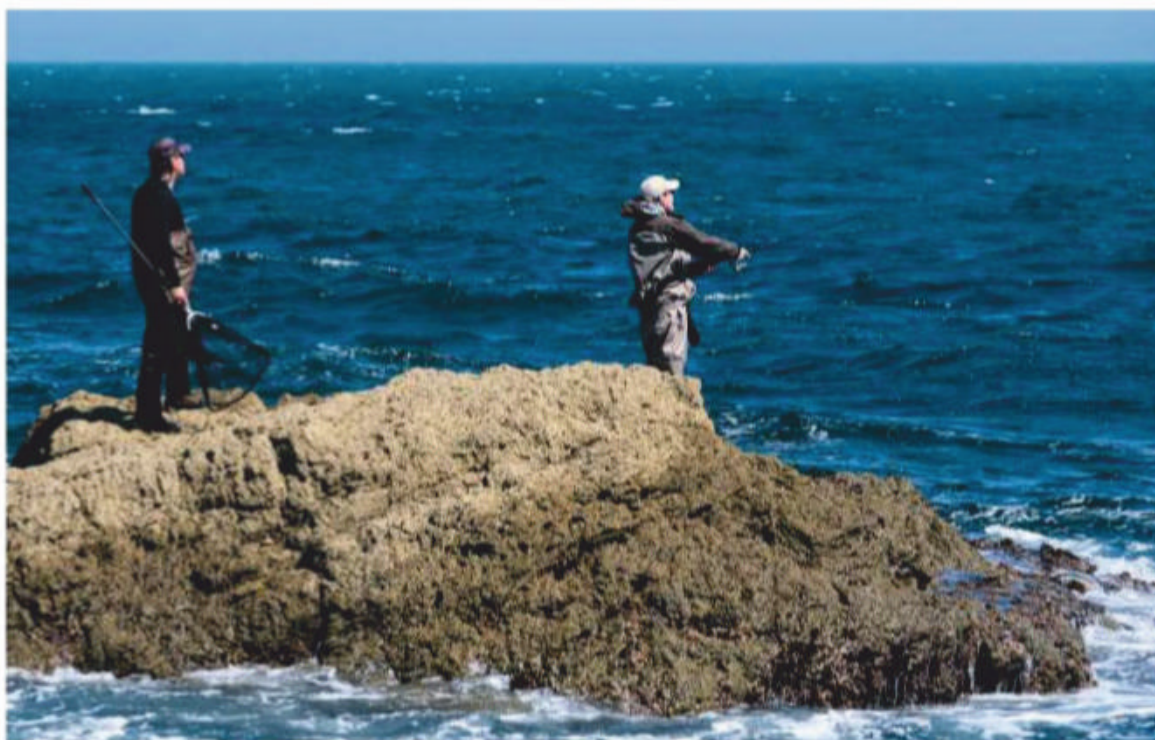
Q: I've just picked up shore fishing. I've tried fish-like lures, such as sandeels, white ones mostly, with a fast and slow retrieve, up and down jig, and near the bottom. I'm thinking of trying surface lures. Where do I start?

PAUL BRADLEY, JERSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS.

HG says: I would urge you to go through a number of back issues of Sea Angler magazine because there is a hell of a lot of bass fishing information contained in them.

I would suggest you book a few days of guided bass fishing with somebody reputable and professional like Marc Cowling, the South Devon Bass Guide.

Without a doubt, that time and money will be a huge shortcut to getting yourself on the right path towards regularly catching bass.





STAR QUESTION

Q: Can you tell me if the various seasons have a bearing on lure selection?

P THOMAS, WHITCHURCH, SHROPSHIRE

HG says: There is a theory that bass are moving around a bit more sluggishly at the start of the season when the water is

cold, hence the better approach is to slow right down ourselves and fish soft plastics especially. This makes a lot of sense to me, but there are no hard and fast rules here.

Rightly or wrongly, I tend to base my lure selections on a combination of location, conditions, and what bait I think is most likely to be around for the bass to feed on – which, of course, depends on the time of year.

Q: Should I be casting bass lures as hard as I can to obtain the maximum distance?

NORMAN SAGE, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

HG says: Certainly not. You will learn over

time that some bass lures should be cast at full power if you are wanting to cover a lot of water. On the other hand, a number of them work better when you concentrate on your drop length and keep everything nice and smooth at, say, 75 per cent of your usual casting power. A smooth casting style is essential – work with the rod.



Q: It seems logical that bass will feed the hardest when the tide is flooding. Is this always the case?

MAX SULLIVAN, LUTON, BEDS

HG says: This logic is very much us human beings applying on the natural world what makes the most sense to us, whereas it's not the case at all.

If I were to write down all the different bass marks I might fish over a year then I reckon I am fishing various parts of the ebb tide more than I am fishing parts of the flood tide. I find that this applies very much to estuaries, especially when it often seems to be the case that those last two or three hours of the ebb tide produce the best bass fishing.



Discover Henry's top 5 soft plastics - see page 94

SEA SCHOOL

OUR EXPERTS SOLVE YOUR FISHING PROBLEMS

Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

Q: I have seen both rope and plastic cable ties used when rigging an anchor to trip, should it become snagged. Which are best?

ROB RALSON, SWANAGE, DORSET

DL says: Either can be used, provided that your choice is strong enough to sustain the weight of the boat when anchored for fishing. It needs to be weak enough to break under controlled pressure using the engine, and allow the anchor to be pulled free from a snag.

STAR QUESTION



Q: When driving an open boat, where is the best place to attach the engine kill cord?

CLIVE HEADLAND, COLCHESTER, ESSEX

DL says: I find that clipping it around my leg, as shown, is best. Others clip it to their life jacket, belt or around their wrist, but I find this can result in the cord getting in the way.

Always ensure that, should you fall over the side, the cord cannot become detached from you in any way and will stop the engine.



Q: I have acquired a trailer (left). Is it a road trailer, ramp launch trailer, or is it suitable for beach launch using a tractor?

SHARON FRIZZEL,
NEWCASTLE
UPON TYNE

DL says: The trailer illustrated is suitable for either purpose, but if you intend towing it on a road, I recommend you have it fully serviced before use, paying particular attention to the wheel bearings and brakes.

Q: Do you have any advice for night fishing aboard a small boat?

BOB HYTHE, BY EMAIL

DL says: Do not attempt to fish in darkness aboard your own boat until you have plenty of experience running it during daylight.

Always ensure you know the area you intend to fish at night really well, and obviously avoid those marks with hazards in the near vicinity.

When you do plan your first night trip, always choose an evening with perfect weather conditions, and set off in daylight in order to get securely anchored before the onset of darkness.





Q: Over the years I have lost count of the number of small tools that I have dropped over the side and subsequently lost. Can you offer any suggestions on how to prevent this?

BRIAN MEADOWS, WHITBY, NORTH YORKS

DL says: Accidentally dropping small items of kit over the side of a boat is inevitable from time to time.

Attaching each item to something that floats, such as a cork or piece of polystyrene, will prevent it from sinking. Always check that you have sufficient buoyancy by testing the efficiency of your float in a bucket first.

Have a landing net close at hand to retrieve any item that goes over the side.

Q: When running my outboard engine in shallow water, how far up can I trim it to avoid damaging the propeller?

ANDY HUTCHINSON, BY EMAIL

DL says: It is important to ensure that the engine has uninterrupted access to sea water for cooling.

The best way to ensure this is to avoid trimming it above the point where the flat cavitation plate above the propeller exits the water because the cooling water intakes are located just below this.



Q: My boat is not fitted with a boarding ladder. I never fish alone, do I need one?

MICHAEL BROADBENT, LIVERPOOL

DL says: A good boarding ladder is one of the most important safety features you could have aboard any angling boat.

Regardless of how strong you are, lifting a casualty back over the side is incredibly difficult, to the point of being impossible.

My advice is to fit a ladder (as shown above) at the earliest opportunity.

Q: What type and how many flares should I carry aboard a trailerable boat, which I use when fishing inshore?

RUSSELL PILKINGTON, BRISTOL

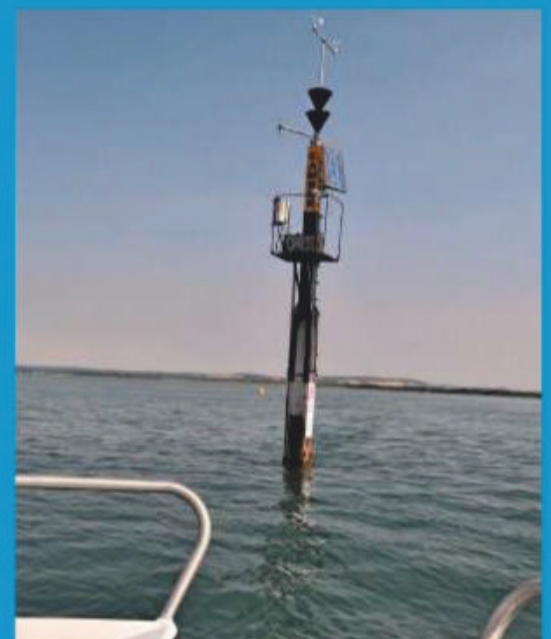
DL says: As a minimum, you should buy an inshore pack containing two red hand flares for day or night use, along with two orange smoke flares for daytime use. I also recommend you carry a couple of parachute flares.



Q: Are you allowed to tie off on any navigation mark or buoy in order to fish?

CARL TRIPPIER, BY EMAIL

DL says: No. In almost every circumstance, tying off to any navigational buoy or fixed marker is strictly prohibited.



Q&A

KAYAK ANGLING

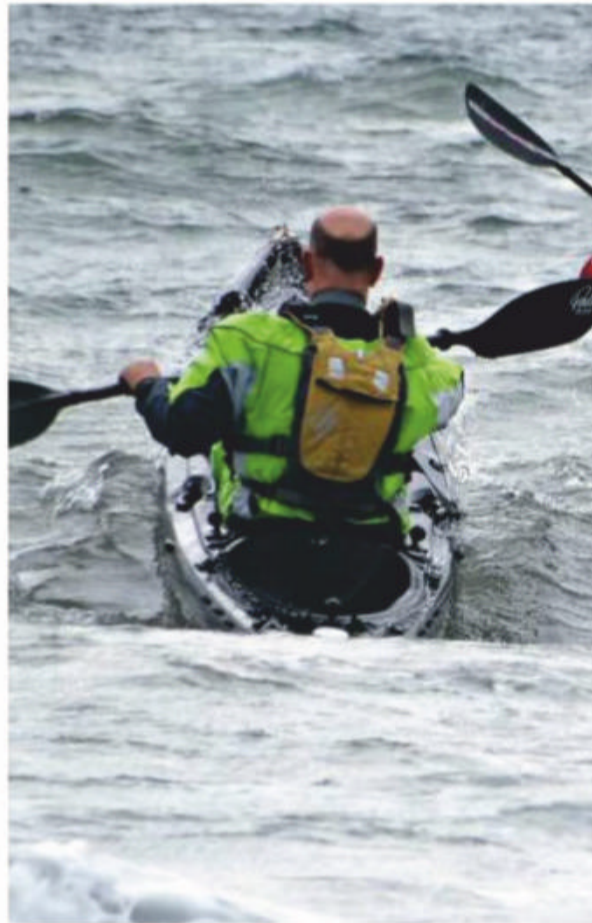
Q: What advice would you give on judging whether or not it might be too rough?

CHRIS PECK, BY EMAIL

MC says: I made a very simple decision when I first started using a kayak. If I have to ask myself if I should launch or not, the answer is not.

Over time, I got better and pushed my boundaries, and there's very little weather now that I'll not venture out and fish in, and I've yet to come a cropper.

There is no substitute for practice, and you should never blindly follow someone



else if you're concerned. I have more than a thousand launches under my belt now, in all conditions and in many different kayaks over the last dozen years, and there are still times when I just say no.

Q: Can you suggest a good undersuit for my drysuit for winter fishing? I use fleece or thermal trousers and tops, layered. Is a one-piece suit better?

PETER TUCKER, BY EMAIL

MC says: Definitely! Many drysuits come with a thin, one-piece base layer, but this often isn't enough for periods spent at anchor rather than paddling.

I turned to the scuba diving companies for a solution, and the one I chose is my one-piece Weezle Extreme. It's flexible, comfortable and warm and hasn't required the use of other layers, even in the middle of winter. I also have the bootees, which are very good, but do require larger than normal boots to go over them, and you need to make sure that they fit inside the drysuit socks.

There are other brands making similar products, so visit a dive shop to check for fit and compare quality and prices.

In spring and autumn, I use the lighter Palm Tsangpo one-piece suit.



Q: I've read about outriggers that can be attached to help stabilise a kayak. Are these worth buying, or should I change my kayak for a wider one?

GRANT STEVENSON, BY EMAIL

MC says: No to both. The stability of a kayak is a compromise between how it sits on flat water and how it handles in rough water.

Time spent using and practising will increase your own connectivity with your kayak and increase your stability through compensating instinctively to all movements.

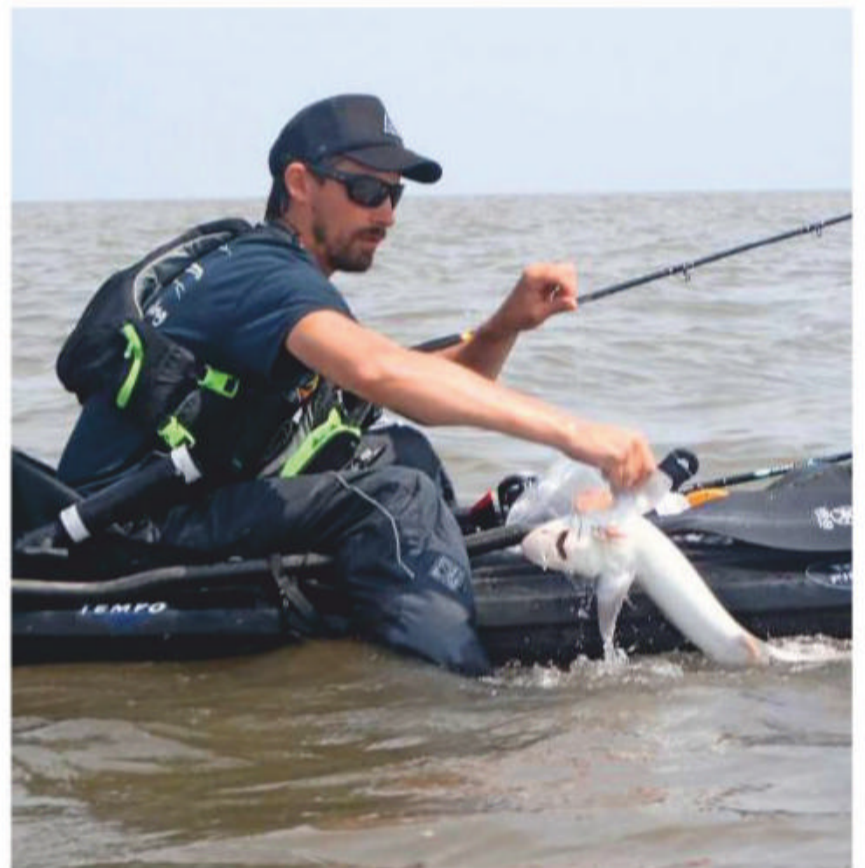
It's similar to getting used to walking on a ship. You would soon negate the need for any accessories that can get in the way, increasing water and wind resistance, so they will become superfluous over time.

I regularly fish in rough conditions, and all my kayaks are slim with hull shapes more inclined to speed through the water with their flat water stability reduced. When I'm


anchored in conditions that are less than ideal, I put my feet over the side, (as above) acting like outriggers, with the added bonus of being instantly adjustable just by moving.

The danger with fixed ones is that they can contribute to an increased chance of flipping you over when hit broadside by a steep wave; they can get caught around the anchor and fishing lines; and they also slow you down considerably when paddling.

With practice and confidence you will soon find that you can stand up (above left) on your kayak if you ever feel the need.



HIT YOUR MARK

Two fishing rods are positioned diagonally across the frame, crossing each other. The rod in the foreground is black with blue and silver accents, including a reel seat and guides. The rod in the background is silver with blue accents. The background is a solid dark grey.

**THE ALL NEW
GRAVITY X5 HT**
- DESIGNED FOR DISTANCE -

SONIK®

WWW.SONIKSPORTS.COM

FIRST LOOK

Paul Fenech samples the latest gear to hit the tackle shops

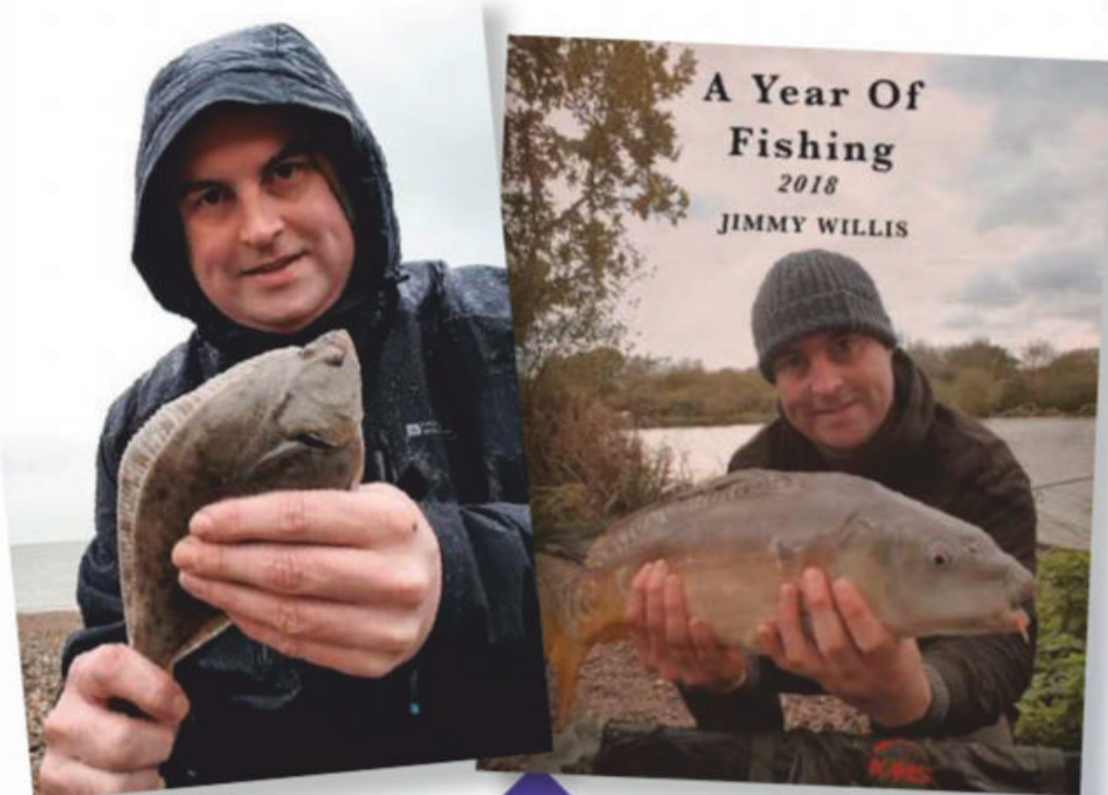
TRONIXPRO NEOPRENE BOOTS

£39.99

There's nothing worse than cold and wet feet when you're fishing.

These are flexible, warm, fully waterproof and perfect for those freezing-cold days on the beach or boat. Available in sizes 7-13.

■ For more info visit: www.tronixfishing.com



A YEAR OF FISHING 2018

PRICE: £12.99

This book is based around a year's sea and coarse fishing of broadcaster and angler Jimmy Willis. A regular on talkRADIO, he will star in a new Amazon Prime Video fishing series in 2019 and is launching his Muddy Worm range of fishing rods for sea, carp and coarse fishing.

The book starts with Jimmy trying sea match fishing, and then within two weeks taking part in the European Open Beach Championship in East Yorkshire. There's also some sport from his local pier in Sussex, as well as carp fishing from day-ticket venues. This book will strike a chord with anyone who has ever been fishing. Available on Amazon.

ICON FLOATING BEADS

RRP: £1.99

There are many situations when floating beads can certainly give you an edge. If you need to raise a baited hook off the seabed to present a perfect pop-up, these are just what you need.

Available in sizes 8mm, 10mm and 12mm, there are eight beads in a pack.

■ For more info visit: www.iconfishing.co.uk





RED GILL LURES

FROM: £6.92

Brilliant for both boat or shore work, these lures offer fantastic colours and actions. Particularly good for targeting cod, pollack or bass, they're built to last much longer than many other lures that fall apart after a few hits.

Equipped with super-sharp hooks, they're bound to bring you lots of interest from predatory fish as soon as they hit the water.

■ For more info visit: www.redgill.co.uk



SAKUMA POWER GUM

RRP: £4.30

Power gum is brilliant for tying stop knots and making your rigs fully adjustable.

Also used for baits stops and setting the depth on float rigs.

Spools are available in 10lb and 22lb breaking strains.

■ For more info visit: www.sakuma.co.uk



HTO LRF WEIGHTS

RRP: £2.49

LRF enthusiasts will love these, especially when using Texas, Carolina, dropshot and Juka rigs.

They are extremely easy to adjust to your preferred swimming depths, and available in a variety of sizes and weights.

■ For more info visit: www.htolures.com





Pile on the

**SeaAngler
EXCLUSIVE
LIVE
TEST**

POWER

The latest Continental rod from Sonik packs a real punch while maintaining an incredible lightweight feel with superior balance... ►

SONIK GRAVITY X5 HT THREE-PIECE ROD RRP: £349.99

How do you create a slim, three-piece rod, featuring a sensitive hollow tip, lightness, and enough grunt to blast your baited rig huge distances?

I have absolutely no idea, but I know a company that's done exactly that.

Over the last couple of years, Northumberland-based Sonik has been busy creating some incredible shore blanks. The very good news for us shore anglers is that its latest outfit shows every indication of becoming a real winner.

The Gravity X5 HT has a total length of 15ft 4in, is rated to cast loads between 4-8oz and is the follow-up to Sonik's extremely popular Gravity Surf HT model.

What immediately struck me is just how light it is...super-lightweight. My attention soon diverted to the tip section, revealing how incredibly slim it is in diameter. Slim it may be, but when handling it I sensed an awful lot of power and speed.

Yet another tick in the box (for me, at least), was the fact that Sonik has focused on using hi-spec components, together with a super-lightweight, high-modulus carbon in the construction. What's more the distinct lack of a pointless, bright luminous paint job is certainly a valuable lesson that many rod manufacturers should sit up and ultimately take notice of, in my opinion.

Cosmetically, the rod boasts Fuji 'K' style guides that are designed to be used in conjunction with braid as well as mono. There's also a Fuji screw-winch DPS reel seat positioned permanently high on the butt section.

Each section has visible lines to enable a swift alignment when fitting the rod together, while a white tip is just the job for bite-spotting.

On the beach I teamed the rod with a fixed-spool reel that I'd loaded with 14lb mono and a tapered shockleader. I reckon

you would get away with using a small, palm-sized multiplier if you wished, but you will certainly benefit more from the former.

Sonik has positioned the blank under the 'Continental' category, but this outfit is pokey... in fact, it's an absolute powerhouse of a rod.

Using a 5oz sinker, I opted for a lay-back style cast to start things off and went immediately into a hard punch. To say I was astonished at the outcome would be an understatement. This thing comes around so rapidly that by the time you release the sinker it's all over in a flash. It's like pulling the trigger!

"The ultimate power is utterly immense and evident during the casting process"

The ultimate power is immense and easily evident during the casting process. The speed is incredible, too, and even better when you hit it sweetly. Fire the Gravity X5 HT powerfully towards the sky and you will relish its super-fast recovery, while watching your shockleader disappearing.

The fact I'd forgotten my casting glove (again!) was particularly annoying. I really wanted to push it harder and to its extremities because I know for certain that the blank definitely had more to offer me.

Even though this rod is packed with power, it boasts an incredible hollow tip. This works a treat when fishing at

extreme distances from the beach. Bites are registered instantly, even from small whiting and dabs.

I was fishing from the beach at Trunch Lane, in Skegness, where the tide run can be rather strong, but the Gravity X5 HT handled it superbly. Once the breakout sinker has settled into the seabed, the tip bent beautifully into the tide and at no time did it pull out the lead weight.

The evidence I have from using it definitely leads me to believe this blank will easily handle cod, rays and smoothhounds. I really can't wait to try it in a proper fishing situation and to enjoy the fight from something more substantial.

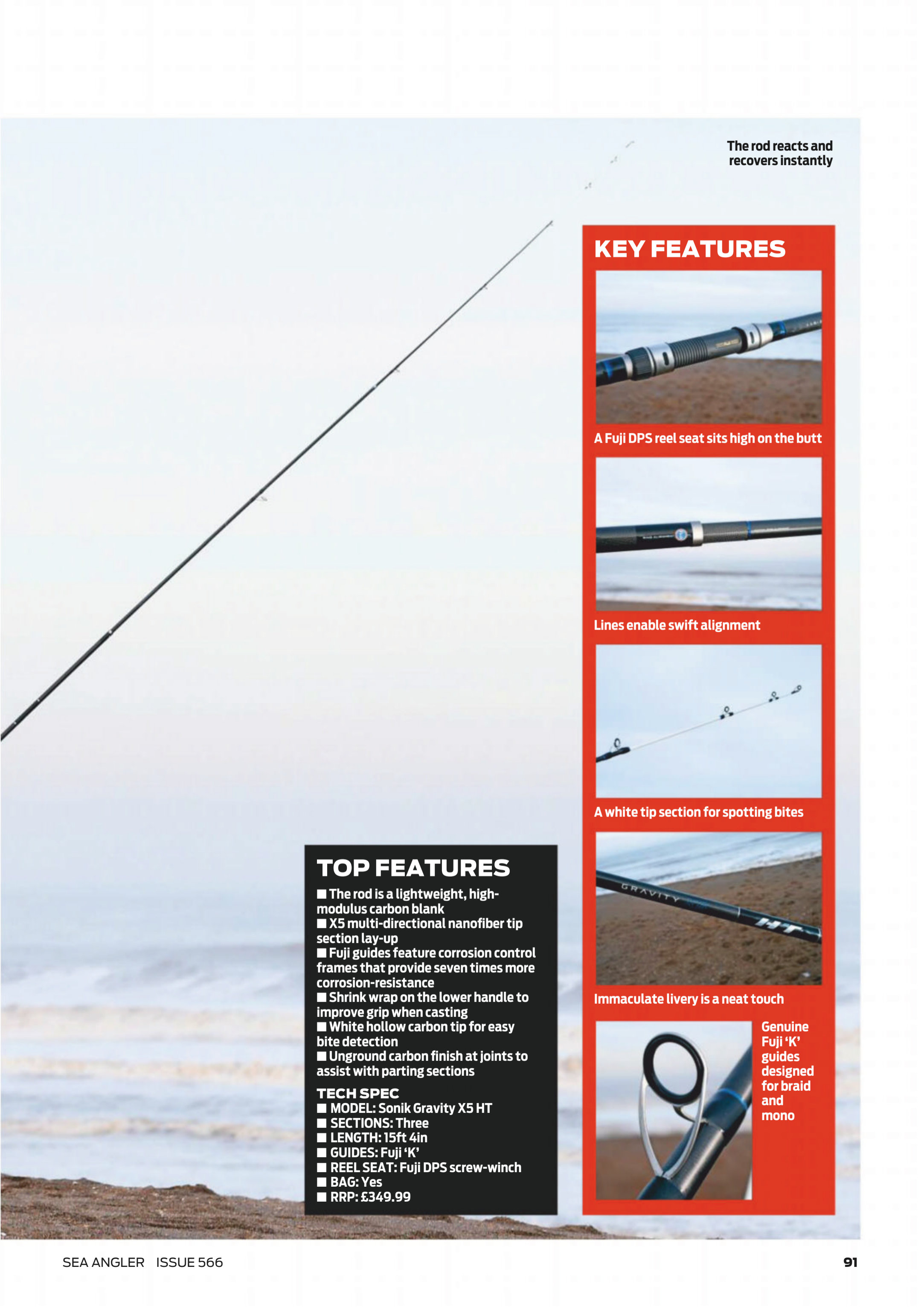
Many shore anglers regard Continental rods as being rather specialist outfits, where only the likes of match anglers get the best from them. This new model from Sonik bears all the hallmarks of a true all-rounder... a rod with which you can target larger species feeding a long way from the shore or, at the other end of the scale, flick delicate baits in the edge for flatties and bass.

It offers the added bonus of being incredibly simple to master and cast, and I'm certain your distances will undoubtedly improve significantly too. It's an absolutely fantastic shore rod – I'm just not sure the label of 'Continental' does it any justice.

To locate your nearest Sonik dealer, tel: 01670 798910.

Web: www.soniksports.com





The rod reacts and recovers instantly

KEY FEATURES



A Fuji DPS reel seat sits high on the butt



Lines enable swift alignment



A white tip section for spotting bites



Immaculate livery is a neat touch



Genuine Fuji 'K' guides designed for braid and mono

TOP FEATURES

- The rod is a lightweight, high-modulus carbon blank
- X5 multi-directional nanofiber tip section lay-up
- Fuji guides feature corrosion control frames that provide seven times more corrosion-resistance
- Shrink wrap on the lower handle to improve grip when casting
- White hollow carbon tip for easy bite detection
- Unground carbon finish at joints to assist with parting sections

TECH SPEC

- MODEL: Sonik Gravity X5 HT
- SECTIONS: Three
- LENGTH: 15ft 4in
- GUIDES: Fuji 'K'
- REEL SEAT: Fuji DPS screw-winch
- BAG: Yes
- RRP: £349.99

MY LATEST BUY

Five shore anglers reveal the latest item of tackle they bought and why...



- NAME: George Smith
- HOME: Grimsby, North East Lincs
- LATEST BUY: Tronixpro Lead Bag
- PRICE: £9.99

George is one of the leading shore match anglers in the UK and competes regularly around the country. His latest buy was bought at Anglers and Dangers Bait and Tackle shop in Grimsby.

"Rather than having numerous lead weights rolling around inside my tackle box, this is brilliant for keeping them all in one place."

- NAME: Ian Howell
- HOME: Holbrook, Suffolk
- LATEST BUY: Penn Fathom 12 multiplier
- PRICE: £130



Match angler Ian has recently become the co-ordinator of the Sea

Anglers Match Federation match team. He bought his latest reel from Keen's Tackle & Guns in Bridgend.

"This reel is brilliant because it casts faultlessly and is very tough when you need to pile a little extra pressure on a fish. It's even better because it came already equipped with a mag conversion."



- NAME: Tony Thomas
- HOME: Sheringham, Norfolk
- LATEST BUY: Kamasan B940M hooks
- PRICE: £1.60



Tony does a lot of his shore fishing from the shingle of North

Norfolk, where flatfish and whiting are his main species targets.

His latest buy was purchased online.

"I've used Kamasan hooks for many years and consider them to be the sharpest and most reliable. I prefer to use the match pattern in size 4."



IRONIXPRO

NAGA^{MX}

Designed under the watchful eye of Welsh International Joe Arch, the Tronixpro Naga MX is built to the highest standards, using the best materials.

It is capable of casting to ultra long distances, yet forgiving enough to satisfy the needs of sea anglers of all abilities.

Features:

2 piece construction
with reducer

Fuji K Alconite Guides

Tronixpro Coasters

Easy to see
phosphorescent tip

Length: 14ft

Casting: 5 - 8oz

RRP: £329.99



- NAME: Robert Stebbings
- HOME: Aldeburgh, Suffolk
- LATEST BUY: Zziplex Profile GT
- PRICE: £350



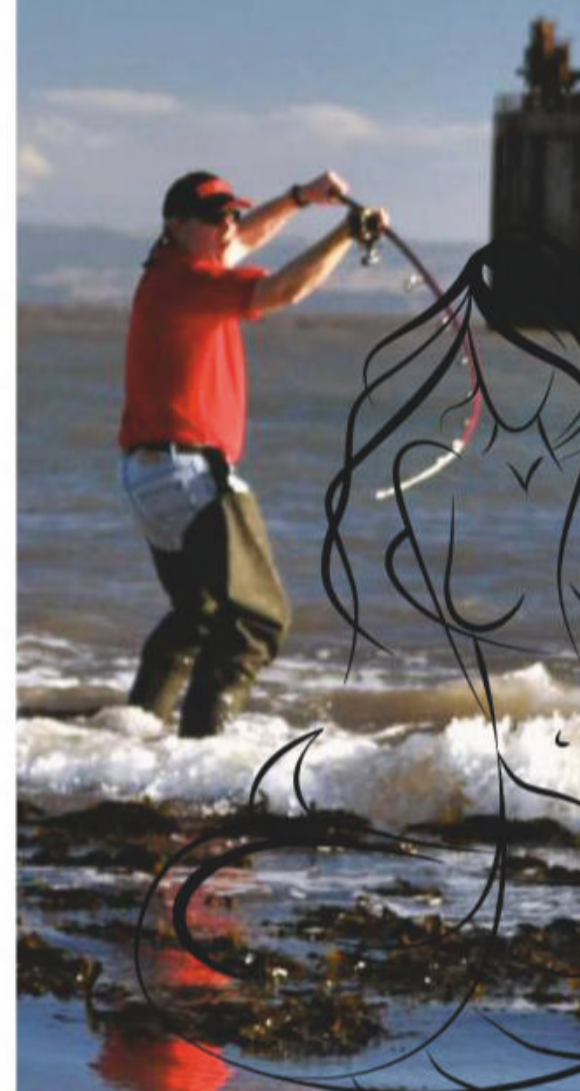
Robert competes regularly on his local match circuit. His latest purchase was made online from Gerry's Fishing based in Morecambe.

"I simply love this rod because it's easy to use and cast. It sits perfectly in the tide and the bite detection is incredibly good."

- NAME: Gary Hazelgrove
- HOME: Brighton, East Sussex
- LATEST BUY: Bassboots chest waders
- PRICE: £300

Gary is part of Team Frank, which competes in the SAMF National Teams of Five Sea League. He made his latest purchase online from Bassboots.

"These waders are probably the best I've ever owned. They are comfortable and super-tough and I've a feeling they will last me a very long time."



Henry Gilbey's

Top five soft plastics

Our expert makes his bass fishing selection



NOTHING HAS CHANGED THE WORLD OF BASS fishing in the British Isles so much over the last few years as soft plastics. Indeed, looking at my own bass fishing today and how I go about it, and then compare it to say five years ago, soft plastics are now an integral part of how I go about my fishing.

I now have access to so many different soft plastics, and I know far more about how to fish them and how the bass often respond so well to them.

I'm actually penning this article while trying to keep my eyes open because I was out until about 3am catching a few nice bass in the pitch black on soft plastics.

If you'd said I would have been doing that five years ago I'd have laughed at you.

When I used to do a lot of wreck fishing, and soft lures started to enter our UK fishing scene, we'd be using simple jellyworms on the end of flying-collar rigs. When I look where we are now with soft plastic lures, it's amazing how things have changed and continue to progress.

I have used a lot of different soft plastics for my bass fishing, but have a few tried and trusted ones that I turn to again and again. Here is my choice... ►

Caught on an OSP
6in DoLive Stick
soft plastic lure



FIISH BLACK MINNOW

A friend of mine said he couldn't imagine anybody releasing a more lethal soft plastic for bass fishing than the Fiiish Black Minnow paddletail.

On the one hand this French lure is a classic paddletail or shad type of soft plastic, but the Black Minnow concept is also a lot more. I just love how it's a complete, modular system. You've got a soft paddletail body that, at slower speeds especially, moves beautifully in the water, and to go with the body we have a range of different jig heads that secure to VMC weedless hooks - and the lure is articulated for extra movement.

Consulting the clever packaging, we can easily buy the correct jig heads and hooks for each body size. No more complications for anglers who want to fish with paddletails for bass.

Swim the Black Minnow at a slowish speed or with a slow sink-and-draw kind of action, bump it down a run of current with a controlled sink-and-draw, and so on.



Because they are weedless and avoid snags very well, you can also work them over rough ground.

For me, it's the one lure (hard or soft) that has been responsible for more big bass than anything else. Vive la France!

2



OSP DOLIVE STICK

This simple-looking soft plastic has changed the way I approach a lot of my bass fishing. I use the 6in and 4½in-long versions very often, always rigged weedless and weightless, and if there is a better 'jerkbait-style' soft plastic that works as well as these things for our bass fishing, then please let me know.

They come from the Japanese freshwater bass fishing world, but in our saltwater environment they work perfectly - heavy and dense enough to cast really well and fish properly in some surprisingly lively conditions. I urge you to either twitch one back or swim it nice and slowly and you will not believe how good these lures look in the water.

This stick is the one I turn to before anything else for my weedless and weightless 'jerkbait-style' soft plastic fishing for bass.

Fishing is so much about confidence, and every time I clip on an OSP DoLive Stick I feel supremely confident. Rigged on weedless hooks, these soft plastics help us to cover the kind of ground you simply can't tackle with hard lures.

3



SAVAGE GEAR SANDEEL

For many lure anglers the Savage Gear Sandeel needs no introduction but, to be honest, I am a little late to the table with this lethal bass fishing lure. It's because I am fishing more and more on the north coast of Cornwall that my need for paddletails has increased (often in livelier seas).

As with the Black Minnow, I really like how Savage Gear has made this soft plastic sandeel lure so simple. Certain body sizes go on certain jig heads, and that's about as complicated as it needs to get.

I really like how it casts, and how the Savage Gear Sandeel gives me a different option to the Black Minnow when fishing on or close to the bottom from the shore. Yes, the Fiiish Black Minnow works better at slower speeds, but when the sea is fizzing around structure and a hard lure won't really get me where I need to be, I turn to the Savage Gear Sandeel.

Whack it out and straight-retrieve it, using the speed of your retrieve to vary the depth at which it swims. Lethal!

FIIISH CRAZY SANDEEL

When nothing in my lure box is producing a bass, I clip on the Fiiish Crazy Sandeel.

The trick to this lure is getting it working properly. It's meant to be fished fast – you don't bump it down the current like you might a Black Minnow, for example.

I think there has been a fair degree of confusion about the Crazy Sandeel, primarily because anglers haven't known how it is designed to be fished.

Cast it out and rip it back – you will feel the body of the lure come alive as it starts to vibrate. When you have ripped the lure back towards you and go for another pick-up, this is when the bass or pollack will smash the lure. Often you will get hit when the Crazy Sandeel is on the drop, and fish smash this lure hard.

If you're into boat fishing for species such as bass, pollack and cod, you should try the Crazy Sandeel. It is the perfect lure for searching the water column, and different to how we tend to fish with the Black Minnow.

It's the most perfect sandeel imitation I have come across.

4



SENKO

Yes, this is one boring-looking lure, and at first glance many wonder what all the fuss is about. Originally from the US freshwater bass fishing world, it is a straight plastic 'stick', but can be deadly for our bass fishing.

While I will tend to twitch the DoLive Stick around in daylight, you can fish a senko essentially the same way, but it's night lure fishing for bass when the senko really comes into its own.

My favourites are the fairly heavy Wave Fishing 5in Bamboo Stick, which you can usually find for sale in the UK. Rigged weedless and weightless, it casts really well, and, if need be in a bit more sea, you can use

5



a belly-weighted weedless hook for a bit more 'grip' in the water.

The biggest shore-caught bass I have landed came on a white senko at night, and I have photographed 10lb-plus bass caught the same way by friends.

I know it's hard to feel confident when a lure looks and feels like it's doing almost nothing in the water, but try a senko at night – cast it out and wind it back – that is it.

I don't know why white works so well at night, and I have no idea how a soft plastic 'stick' seems to do it for the bass. But if there is one thing that fishing with senkos and, indeed, soft plastics has taught me, it's that less is so often more. ■



Meet the wolf in sheep's clothing

This small, open boat might be basic, but it's a pocket rocket



YOU DO NOT NEED A LUXURY CAR for much of your day-to-day driving because a basic family compact will perfectly suffice. Likewise, why spend a considerable sum of money to buy a boat for inshore angling when, in many cases, a relatively small, open

and basic boat will be perfectly adequate to get you afloat and among the fish?

If you're looking for such a boat, then check out the smart Sport 4, manufactured by Westport Marine. Described as being an all-purpose sports boat aimed at users who want a rugged all-rounder, she is perfect for anglers.

This is an open boat featuring a console situated aft, in the starboard quarter. Given her relatively small hull size, this internal layout option provides the absolute maximum space forward from which to fish, and is consequently perfect for lure fishing, fly-fishing or various other forms of angling both on the drift or at anchor. ▶



WHAT YOU GET

As with all previous boats I have tried from Westport Marine, the build quality and finish of the Sport 4 is first class. I especially liked the hull colour of the trial boat though, but, of course, various other colour options are available. The beautiful gloss finish of the gel coat is afforded a level of protection from abrasion by heavy-duty rubber fendering fitted fore and aft.

Key fixtures and fittings include a combined locker/seat aft across the transom that holds a standard-size fuel tank and battery, a spacious locker at the bow that, in addition to an anchor, chain and warp, is perfect for storing other bulky items, and a thwart sited just forward of the console that includes a removable mid-section.

Of course, basic deck hardware is provided fitted as standard, along with smart pulpit and side rails and, most importantly, a boarding ladder mounted outboard on the port side of the transom.

Inboard freeboard is good, with the deck featuring a hard-wearing, moulded non-slip finish. Any spray or rain taken aboard drains aft and collects in a small sump, from where it can be quickly expelled while moving forward by first removing a small bung. The Sport 4 is perfect for fishing one or two anglers.

The hull has an overall length of 4.51 metres with a 1.78m beam. Given these dimensions, a key selling point is that she is easily trailerable with an average family car, and can be stored in a typical family garage. She displaces 220kg and has been classified as CE category C.

Extensive buoyancy is provided at strategic places throughout the hull and within the gunnels, ensuring that the hull remains upright and stable even when totally flooded.

The V-hull has been designed to cut through chop with ease, and is rated for use with outboard engines up to a maximum of 50hp. The trial boat

The Sport 4 is perfect for one or two anglers



was fitted with a 30hp Honda which, with two persons aboard, planed at 12 knots, and went on to achieve a top speed of 23 knots.

Speeds of more than 32 knots are possible with a 50hp engine.

PUT TO THE TEST

My sea trial aboard the Westport Marine Sport 4 was arranged at Wareham, courtesy of Howard Marine Sales Ltd. Once we had navigated our way through the speed restrictions enforced throughout the inner reaches of the harbour and reached open water, I was able to open up the throttle and get the true feel of this sporty 'pocket rocket.'

She really is a 'wolf in sheep's clothing,' and handled beautifully, cutting through the water



A combined locker/seat holds a standard-size fuel tank and battery



There is also a spacious locker at the bow

The V-hull has been designed to cut through chop with ease



cleanly, while demonstrating impressive lateral stability when driven through a sequence of tight twists and turns.

I am certain that were we able to test her under more demanding conditions I would have come away similarly impressed.

The Westport Marine Sport 4 is undoubtedly a boat I would be happy to own and fish from in a variety of different locations. ■

INFORMATION

Prices for the Westport Sport 4 fitted with a 30hp outboard with power trim on a roller trailer starts from £12,995 including VAT, and fitted with a 40hp would start from £13,995.

All boats are built to order with a lead time of six to eight weeks. For more information, contact Howard Marine Sales Ltd, tel: 07977 466160. Email: sales@howardmarine.com Web: www.westportmarine.co.uk

BOAT STORE

Items for anglers going afloat

Lowrance goes Live with flagship fish-finders

Marine electronics company Lowrance brings live sonar, charting and smartphone connectivity to anglers



Described as a significant leap forward in fish-finding technology, HDS Live has been launched by Lowrance.

It delivers real-time sonar, charting and connectivity features, including Active Imaging, LiveSight, Genesis Live and LiveCast smartphone integration. Here's a breakdown of what it all means...

ACTIVE IMAGING SONAR

With Active Imaging, you see structure and cover with a new level of refined detail, and at a range unmatched by any other structure-imaging technology.

Offering industry-leading clarity without sacrificing range, it delivers unmatched image quality of structure, fish and bottom composition. Active Imaging 3-in-1 sonar combines Lowrance CHIRP, with SideScan and DownScan Imaging, allowing anglers to quickly search fish-holding structure, and enhances FishReveal with higher-level clarity and target separation.

Active Imaging 2-in-1 sonar includes Side and DownScan Imaging and is perfect

for use with a separate traditional sonar transducer.

Simple to use without the need to change frequencies while fishing in most conditions, Active Imaging 800 kHz provides crystal-clear detail. For anglers needing to see further than 120ft, Active Imaging can also operate at 455 kHz.

Active Imaging enhancements, including greater resolution, a cleaner 3D view and a new Custom Depth Shading feature, are available to existing StructureScan 3D modules through a free software update.

LIVESIGHT SONAR

Billed as sonar interpretation made simple, LiveSight sonar delivers the most detailed views of fish, down to every turn and flip of the tail as they swim in and around cover.

You'll be fishing in real-time as you watch fish react to your lure, see how they are relating to structure and gain insight on what will work, what won't and what to do next.

Perfect for drop-shotting, vertical-jigging or lure-tracking in front of your boat, LiveSight helps you pinpoint fish locations, so you'll know whether they are actively feeding. Mount the transducer in a front-facing position to cast toward the fish, or mount it in a down-facing position for vertical-jigging below your boat.

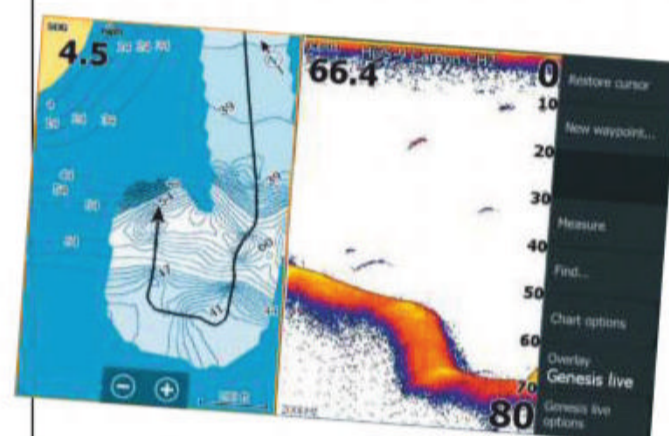
When using LiveSight forward in conjunction with the Lowrance Point-1 GPS antenna, an innovative on-chart indicator shows the direction the transducer is pointing, allowing anglers to line up on a waypoint or pinpoint the structure they are trying to fish.

GENESIS LIVE CHARTING

Delivering real-time, custom-mapping capabilities, HDS Live uses the power of Genesis Live charting to create depth-contour overlays on charts.

Incredibly easy to use, you can control contour transparency, density of contours drawn on the screen up to unprecedented

six-inch intervals, depth and safety shading colour palettes and more. Charts can quickly and easily be saved to an SD card for continuous use.



LIVECAST SMARTPHONE INTEGRATION

HDS Live allows anglers to display important fishing information and entertainment from their smartphones on their 12-inch and 16-inch sunlight viewable displays.

Users can view their smartphone in full-screen or split-screen windows via HDMI connection, allowing them to stream video, view Google Maps and fishing data on the HDS Live touchscreen — all while their phone is safely stowed.

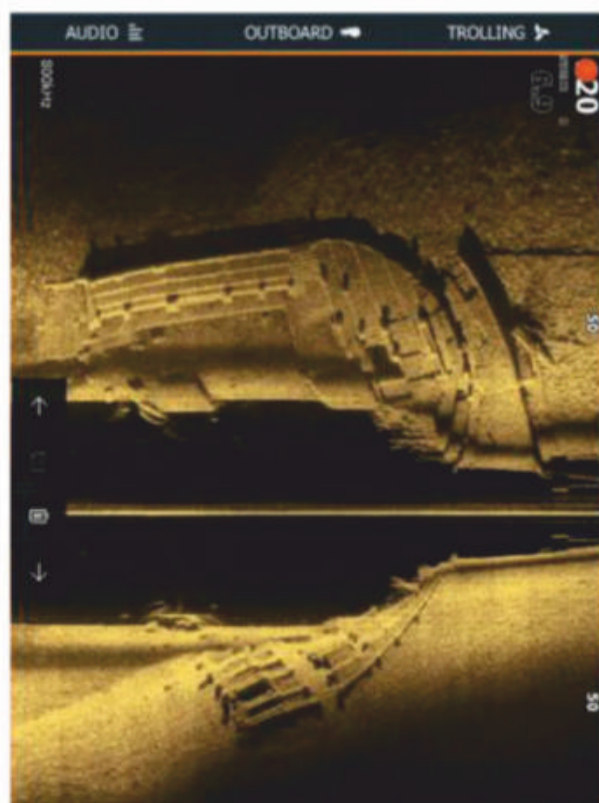
HDS Live features a low-profile design with edge-to-edge glass; a SolarMAX HD screen; bracket, flush and rear mounting options; user-programmable keys; and an optional fully-programmable Bluetooth remote.

PRICES

Available in 7in, 9in, 12in and 16in display sizes, HDS Live ranges in price from £1,219.99 to £5,200.

Active Imaging can be bought as a bundle with HDS Live or as a separate accessory for £310, while the LiveSight transducer is priced at £2,249.99.

For more information, visit: www.lowrance.com



England - Ramsgate

Largest boat caught sea bass in the UK in nearly 30yrs

Caught aboard this vessel..... Weighing 19lb 4oz

- Ramsgate 1 hr from London
- Experienced skipper / angler Roger Lennon
 - All equipment supplied
 - On-board toilet, tea/coffee
 - Beginners, groups, individuals,
 - Families welcome
 - Licensed for 12, parking 2 mins from boat
 - £45 per person for 8 hour trip



07805 250427 ramsgatefishingcharters.co.uk

England - Minehead



MINEHEAD

Orca 38ft
Cygnus Typhoon
C.O.P. 60 miles

Contact skipper Albert

01643 703687 or 07850 708554
ajhartgen@btconnect.com

Scotland - Eyemouth

SAGITTARIUS & OCEANIC



Sagittarius a Blyth Catamaran
Oceanic a Southcat Catamaran
Individual & Small groups £35pp
Whole boat booking £390 (6 hour trip)

Derek Anderson Aquamarine Charters
Tel: 01890 750481 Mob: 07860 804316

SEA ANGLER

TACKLESHOP

Devon

Ashbys Leisure Superstore



Open 7 days
Lots of Fishing Gear
Leading Tackle Brands
Fresh and Frozen Baits
Call 01548 531625
East Charleton, Kingsbridge,
Devon, TQ7 2AP

England - Sussex

'KATRINA'

40' Fast, purpose built vessel with
a large aft deck. Fully Licensed/
Insured for up to 12x Anglers.
Specialising in Wreck and
General Fishing
roger.kms@gmail.com
07860 421401

SeaAngler

England - Southampton

Waywood Lass Charters

Charter Angling Boat -
Deep Sea Trips from
Southampton
Licensed up to 12 people

Jim Moore 07710 729486
jim@waywoodlasscharters.com
www.waywoodlasscharters.com

**For all
your
advertising
needs
call**

**01733
366371**

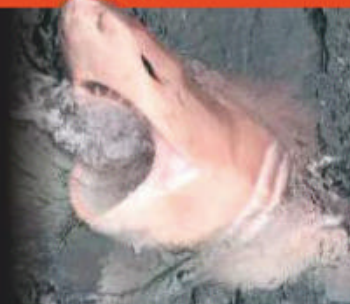
Ireland - Co Clare

**EVER WANTED TO CATCH A FISH OVER 1000LB
(OVER TEN YEARS OF SUCCESS CATCHING SIXGILL SHARKS)
OR JUST WANT LOTS OF VARIETY ON A
COMFORTABLE BOAT IN A BEAUTIFUL LOCATION?**

Well the West of Ireland in
Co Clare on board the Clare
Dagoon with Skipper Luke
Aston is the place to go.

And what's more we can offer
a great fish and stay package
in our own Guesthouse.

Bookings available now for
2019 but we are filling up fast.



Check out www.fishandstay.com or ring Luke Direct
on 00353 87 6367544 for more info.
Find us on Facebook.com/CarrigaholtSeaAngling

**Please mention
Sea Angler when
responding to adverts**

Wales - Anglesey

STINGRAY ANGLING CHARTER
(Established 1974)

*** NO LENGTHY VOYAGES -
SPEND TIME FISHING!!!**

Several good reefs for Pollack

Coley - Cod and Bass.

at Anchor - Tope - Huss - Conger

Dave Williams - Cemaes Bay, Anglesey

*** 07860 175 111 ***

davewilliamsstingray@hotmail.com

SEA ANGLER

MISCELLANEOUS

Bait



**FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY
ORDERS OVER £50**

EST. 1985

SOLENT BAITS

MAIL ORDER FRESH & FROZEN
SEA BAIT SPECIALISTS

www.solentbaits.co.uk

02392 718978 | 07925917206

Email: solentbaits@gmail.com



General

**LIFERAFT HIRE -
LIFERAFT & DINGHY
SERVICING**

"You have got to admit, Premium really
look after their customers"



Send for our FREE info pack and deposit list

0800 243673

info@liferafts.com

www.liferafts.com

Liferaft House, Burnham-on-
Crouch, Essex. CMO 8TE



Jersey

Discover the Best Fishing in Jersey!

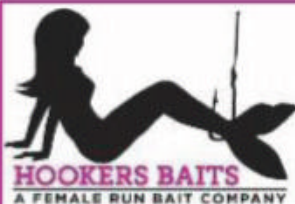
**10 Meter Swift Cat -
Anna 3
COMING SOON**

Experience excellent inshore fishing around
Jersey, with quality species like Turbot, Brill,
Bream, Tope, Ray's and Congers. Price includes
all rods, reels, tackle, bait, and beverages.



Anna 2 - Fully licensed and insured charter vessel

Book online WWW.FISHINGJERSEY.CO.UK or call 07797 725301
See website for travel and accommodation bookings



**Leading suppliers of
TOP QUALITY
Live & Frozen
sea fishing baits**

NATIONWIDE NEXT DAY DELIVERY

Order via - hookersbaits.com
or via our orderline - 01253 860505
Out of hours - 07898793181

NEW ADDRESS: 35A Beach Road, Cleveleys, FY5 1EG

**To
advertise,
please
call sales on
01733
366371**

Insurance



Tel: 01684 564457

Email: enquiries@merciamarine.co.uk

www.merciamarine.co.uk

MARINE INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

Insurance for pleasure and commercial craft and marine businesses

PLEASURE CRAFT INSURANCE

Free competitive quotations immediate cover

Wide cover
A policy with good security
Personal friendly service 7 days a week

LOCK AND QUAY POLICY

Insurance for the Marine Trade

Liabilities, Property, Vessels, Build Risks

Tailored to your requirements
or also Stand alone Public Liability
for Self Employed
Wide range of Trades

Mercia Marine (Underwriting) Limited First Floor, Christ Church Hall Avenue Road, Malvern WR14 3AY
Authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

General

FAT YAK FISHING
MADE IN THE UK

THE KAYAK DESIGNED FOR FISHING

NEW ADDITIONAL FRONT BUNGEE & TWO EXTRA PADEYES

MOUNTING BLOCK FOR RAM ROD HOLDER, FISH FINDER OR GPS

REAR STORAGE WITH ADDITIONAL CLIPPING POINTS

PADDLE PARK

2 FLUSH MOUNTED ROD HOLDERS

ANCHOR TROLLEY SYSTEM WITH CLEAT

SCUPPER HOLES DESIGNED TO TAKE A FISHFINDER TRANSDUCER

BUY ONLINE

01984 635043
www.fatyakfishing.co.uk

For expert, helpful & friendly independent marine Insurance Advice
Porthcawl Insurance Consultants LTD
OPEN 7 DAYS,
ESTABLISHED 1967
Contact: Tel (01656) 784866
Fax (01656) 784872
E-mail: quotes@porthcawl-insurance.co.uk
or why not visit our website at
www.porthcawl-insurance.co.uk
As recommended by: Warrior, Ribcraft, Picton & Cobra
Authorised & Regulated by the FCA

Look out for Issue 567 on sale 7th February

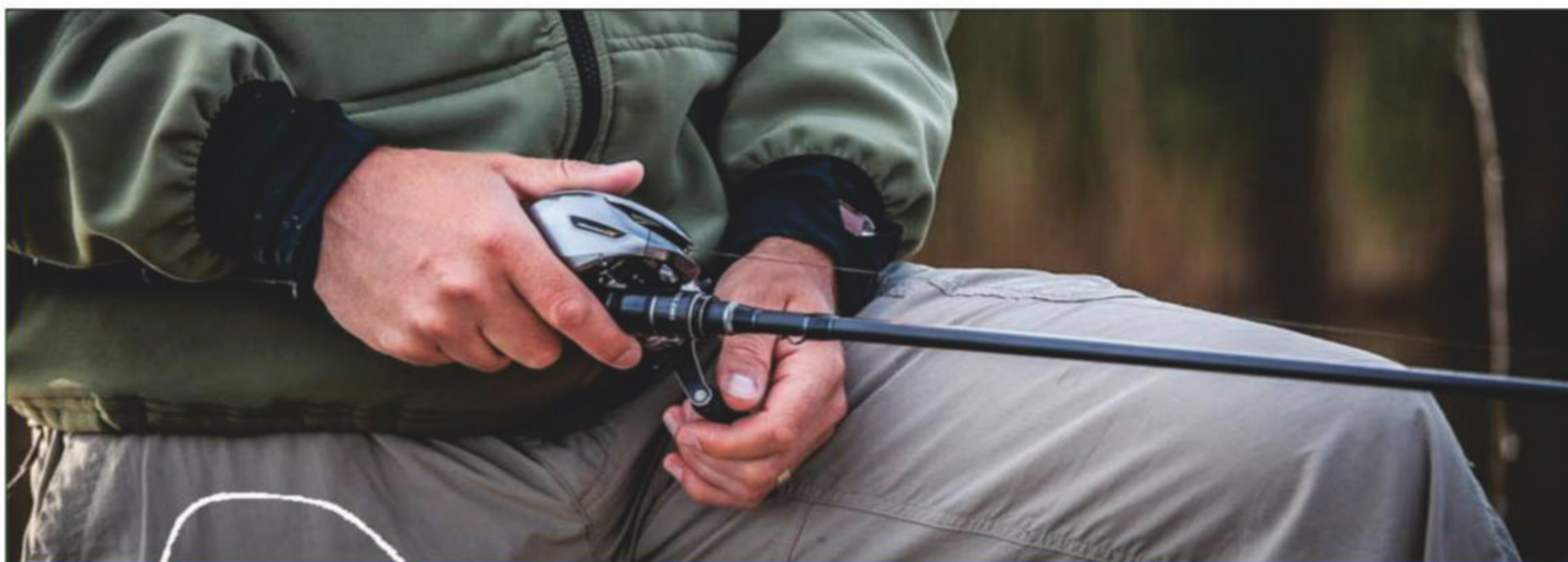
Holidays Abroad

Sea Ace Fishing Adventures
Henties Bay, Namibia

All Inclusive Angling Packages Include:
Shark and Edible Fishing from the Shore or Boat,
En suite Accommodation, All Food and Drinks,
Top Quality Tackle and Bait,
4 X 4 with Experienced Guides, Airport Transfers
Safari and Scenic Tours Also Available

Email: info@seaace.com.na
Web: www.seaace.com.na

To advertise, please call sales on 01733 366371



CHANNEL ANGLING

All Your Fishing Needs Under One Roof



Channel Angling is Dovers Premier tackle and bait stockist. With over 25 years experience you can be sure you're getting the best tackle and bait available!

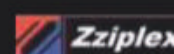
Call: 01304 203 742

Email: channelangling@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: @channelanglingdover

**158-160 Snargate Street,
Dover, Kent, CT17 9BZ**

anyfish anywhere™



Authorised
Zziplex agent
for the
South East

YOUR LETTERS

Write to: Sea Angler Mailbox, Media House, Lynchwood Business Park, Peterborough, PE2 6EA.
Email: cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk

☆ STAR LETTER ☆

WAY FORWARD FOR SHARKS

Shark fishing is the current pinnacle of the UK boat fishing scene; true sport fishing in our home waters. However, there is growing disagreement between anglers, skippers and scientists as to whether we should boat these magnificent creatures and, if so, how best to do it.

The Shark Trust issued some guidance in your excellent magazine (issue 561) stating it is okay if done carefully, and your magazine often has pictures of people (including myself) posing with them.

However, an eminent marine biologist who crews on a Plymouth charter boat has science and numbers to state that mortality of those brought on board is high unless great care is taken. This causes an ethical and moral dilemma for those fishing for them who want a catch photo to treasure the memory.

Freshwater specimen anglers rarely leave home without an unhooking mat, but I rarely, if ever, see one on a charter boat.

What do the experts think we should really be doing and what alternatives are there to on-board catch photos, such as boatside and underwater shots, and the best ways to take them?

As the leading magazine in the industry, it would be great for the sport for someone to take a proactive stance on something rumbling on social media.

Karl Bird, Ruskington, Lincs

CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING IS UNETHICAL

At a great age, I am returning to sea angling. I once caught a 17lb 10oz cod off Hayling, a good fish but then someone caught three to 50lb also off Hayling in the following week or so.

I've noticed many changes. I believe catch and return is unethical and will not target any fish I do not intend to cook. Why stress a beautiful animal just for fun?

Of course, there will always be the by-catches like smoothhounds, female huss and rays and male bream. I would compare catch and return to hare coursing where a kill is merely an accident.

Some fish I have learned to avoid, such as conger eels. To avoid these, use a 3-4ft trace extender and catch ling instead; now there is a meal.

My bass gear stayed unused until the catch and release ruling was lifted on October 1.

There is a trend towards fishing lighter and lighter. Anglers should use the heaviest gear that would still catch. Virtually no damaged fish escape, any unwanted by-catch can be released while

still fresh and any fish you keep are not full of lactic acid so taste better. Ethical and total common sense.

I would suggest that carp fishing at a busy venue can be compared to those tourists in Spain who are photographed with small monkeys.

How about an article on ethics? Remember, no mini-species hunting or wrasse fishing. Mullet are just for the table. Just catch a sensible amount and then go home.

Surely, the rules for shore fishing matches could be altered to discourage undersized fish getting hooked in the first place. For instance, I never use less than a size 3/0 hook.

Malcolm Hayward, by email

END OVERFISHING

I write in reference to your editorial comment in Sea Angler. I share your concern about participation rates in sea angling and accept that the reasons for a decline are complex and not due to any one single issue.

However, I believe participation rates are linked to abundance of fish. The rebuilding

of striped bass stocks down the eastern seaboard of the USA between 1986 and 1996 resulted in a sevenfold increase in adult striped bass stocks, which, in turn, saw angling trips directed at striped bass also increase sevenfold.

Those additional trips derived from existing anglers going striped bass fishing more frequently and the attraction of new anglers who, because they caught fish, largely remained angling over the long term.

Incidentally, the increased expenditure on tackle, boats, bait, specialist clothing and footwear and all the other goods and services consumed by anglers also increased by 700 per cent and those sort of growth figures should be a wake-up call for the UK tackle trade to get involved in ensuring an end to overfishing.

Likewise, as salmon numbers have increased on the Tyne, the level of angling has also significantly increased.

Would the carp fisheries we now have across the UK have materialised without the growth in well-stocked carp waters?

All other things being equal, more and bigger fish available to anglers will increase participation rates.

What have the trends been in respect of marine fish stocks around our coastline, especially those of direct interest to sea anglers?

To do this we can look at the Government's own published statistics for landings into England. The figures represent tonnes.

SPECIES	1975	2016
Cod	194,595	1,871
Conger	365	102
Dabs	1,402	58
Flounder	202	57
Ling	1,706	216
Plaice	23,657	2,276
Coalfish	16,806	79
Whiting	6,576	1,317

One should bear in mind that technology in 2015/6 in terms of fish location and fishing gear is altogether of a different magnitude to the 1970s, which makes these figures all the more alarming.

If you are an angler who has fished since the 1970s and you feel many iconic angling species are scarcer than they used to be – you're probably right!

The Government department that has overseen this decline in commercial landings from around 300,000 tonnes of demersal species down to less than 20,000 tonnes [93 per cent decline] during the last 40 years is Defra (used to be MAFF).

If ever a Government department was unfit for purpose, it is Defra.

There is a quote (and I can't recall from whom) but it goes something like: "All that is required for evil to prosper is for good men to remain silent."

Malcolm Gilbert, St Ives, Cornwall



IDENTITY HELP

Congratulations on Sea Angler issue 562. I had mixed emotions when I read the six-gilled shark article because I predicted exactly that in my book 'The Ultimate Angling Bucket List' maybe three years ago, and now I can't get out and give it a go myself due to my health situation.

I also read with interest the Sea School piece, particularly as everyone seemed to be banging on about species hunting and fish identification. I have a written book for free download from:

www.fishingfilmsandfacts.co.uk/docs/Field%20Guid%20Saltwater%20Fish%20ID.pdf

It contains the key identification features, plus a picture of every species of fish in the British record list.

Following the link, download it to a computer or smart phone.

In the meantime, keep up with all the good work.

Dr Phill Williams, Lancashire

EXCITING READING

I'm sending a quick message to say how much I enjoyed reading the feature by Dave Lewis about his trip with Kevin McKie's Size Matters for blue skate and six-gilled sharks (Sea Angler 562).

It was a great read. I found myself getting quite excited reading it to find out what came up next. I can only imagine what the trip must have been like in person. Great work.

John Locker, Truro, Cornwall.

SUPERB FROM LEAKYBOOTS

Thank you for the bass article by James 'Leakyboots' Batty in Sea Angler 563. It was quite simply the best article since Dave Lewis and Clive Gammon's epic articles about Namibia in the early 2000s.

It is genuinely ground-breaking and exciting to read an article that challenges how you fish and makes you want to get out there and try new things.

The advice is superb, but the way it is written is fabulous. There is a certain excitable schoolboy approach that makes you part of the action and enthralls you to the point you are desperately checking the tide table.

It is refreshing too that there is no mention in the article of tackle, you don't feel as though you are being fed some corporate BS.

Thanks again for printing it and I hope there is more of this calibre to come. Top marks to all concerned.

A previously disenchanted subscriber.
Simon Jackson, Lamerton, Devon

BACK AND BUZZING

I've been reading your magazine since issue 554 and just wanted to drop you a line to say thanks for the advice and tips on lure fishing from the shore.

I used to do a lot of beach fishing in the 1980s and 90s, but hadn't been much since 2000. I started fishing again a

couple of years ago, mainly in the summer for bass and soles. On one session I noticed an angler waded out at low tide, always in the same spot fishing for bass with a lure. I've seen this about eight times and I thought there must be fish there or he's just plain stubborn.

I've been using an 11ft carp rod and £15 reel from the market and I caught my first bass after several attempts when another angler gave me a Sammy-type surface lure. The following week I bought a Savage Gear Roadrunner and a Mitchell Mag Pro 4500, braid, tapered fluorocarbon leader and some lure clips.

Soon afterwards, the weather and tide were ideal so I was fishing by 5.30am. Three others were fishing along a stretch of about 400 yards. I waded out, had a quick chat and one of them gave me a lure. It was soon clipped on to the end of my leader and cast out.

On my second cast, I caught a 2lb 8oz fish, followed by another of 1lb 8oz and then 3lb 8oz in 30 minutes.

Thanks again Sea Angler.

**'Chelsea Jimmy',
Eastbourne, East Sussex**

HELPING HAND

Along with Michael Judge, I am a qualified Angling Trust Coach. We have helped special needs children from the Polygon School in Southampton on Fridays for the last three years.

Alan from Al's Tackle, a small shop in Bridge Road, Woolston, has supplied bait for the sessions free of charge. We also run a junior section for our club, the King's Arms SAC, again with Al's Tackle being very generous in donating rods and reels and tackle free of charge for our juniors. Alan's support is a great help in enabling us to hold junior coaching sessions for the youngsters of Southampton. We are very grateful for his support.

Rod Giles, Southampton

CLOTHING PROBLEM

Sea angling has long been confirmed as a 'sport for all' to enjoy and there is a vast range of fishing gear out there to suit everyone. Even the most discerning angler would be hard pushed not to find the 'perfect' set-up.

When it comes to clothing however, it's definitely a man's world with racks and racks of men's flotation suits and jackets in size Small to XXXL but where are the women's sizes?

Given the number of women anglers enjoying sea angling, you would think at least one manufacturer would notice a niche in the market and offer sizes to suit.

I contacted the staff of a company recently to see if they could make me a smock in a smaller size because even the man's small size is mega huge, but they couldn't due to production costs. However, they did say they are working on a women's range.

Nikki Thompson, Ardrishaig, Argyll

WIN £100 WORTH OF ASSO LINE AND LEADERS

Asso Lines are a huge range of well-known products produced by Gruppo DP, one of the biggest monofilament companies in the world. Our Star Letter winner gets an Asso package consisting of Bullet Proof, Classic, Ultra, Ultra Cast, tapered leaders, Ever Green braid, Ultraflex (50m) and Oblivion (100m). Contents, worth just over £100, may occasionally vary.



■ **BULLET PROOF** – Originally designed for carp fishing, but its durability attracted sea anglers. Available in six breaking strains. RRP: £13.99 for 4oz spool.

■ **CLASSIC** – Its high-impact strength, low stretch, superior abrasion resistance and durability mean anglers also use the 50lb, 60lb and 70lb as shockleaders. Available in 15 breaking strains. RRP: £5.99 for 4oz spool.

■ **OBLIVION** – This monofilament is for making rigs. It has no memory and is very supple. Five breaking strains. RRP: £4.29 for 100 metres.

■ **PE EVERGREEN** – The eight-fibre construction of this braid ensures perfect roundness and smoother casts. Ten breaking strains. RRP: £28.99 for 300m.

■ **TAPERED SHOCKLEADERS** – These leaders offer superior knot and shock strength, along with high abrasion resistance. Available in five size ranges. RRP: £8.99 for five 15m leaders.

■ **ULTRA** – Rated by many top match anglers as the best line available. Eight breaking strains. RRP: £15.99 for a 4oz spool.

■ **ULTRA CAST** – Has the strength of Ultra, but more supple. Fluorocarbon coated, it offers high visibility and comes in five weights. RRP: £15.99 for 4oz spool.

■ **ULTRAFLEX** – Rated as the best leader material, the lower breaking strains are used for many Continental rigs, while the heavier sizes are ideal for tournament casting. Seven breaking strains. RRP: £4.29 for 50m.



A shot in the arm for teams

As North Norfolk hosts many of the nation's best anglers, for once individual glory takes a back seat



TEAM MATCH FISHING IS ALIVE and kicking as demonstrated by a superb turnout at the National Sea League Final. Organised by the Sea Anglers Match Federation, the prestigious event is for qualifying sides from various regional leagues and always includes many of the nation's best shore match anglers.

The big event, fished over two days with match sections located at Kelling, Salthouse and Cley in North Norfolk, had an impressive roster of 33 teams of five. Leading up to the event, weather conditions weren't ideal as a persistent easterly gale battered the

shoreline. A strong wind and sweeping swell showed no signs of subsiding as the rough conditions would subsequently test the angling skills of the 165 competitors.

CRUNCHING WAVES

Overnight saw the gale gradually giving way to a strong breeze, and anglers were greeted by crunching waves and very little colour in the water. Those fishing at Cley found the going particularly tough.

After an hour, it was clear that the expected whiting and bass were thin on the ground, so many set out their stall to target dabs and flounders.

Tom Wells, in zone A and fishing for

Christchurch Angling, ran away with it as he recorded seven fish for 4lb 3oz. Second was Phil George (Garry Evans Match Team) with 12 fish for 2lb 15oz.

Third was Grimsby matchman George Smith (Asso Anyfish Anywhere) with eight fish totalling 2lb 10oz.

Zone B, also at Cley, proved to be a real struggle for many. Section winner was Stephen Adams, fishing for Team Breakaway. He managed just four flounders for 2lb 2oz. Just behind was Paul 'Shakey' Stevens (Prime Angling), who caught six more fish, but the tiny dabs meant his weight was just 1lb 14oz. Third was local lad Henry Randell (Big Catch Tackle) ►



**Team Breakaway's
Richard Burt was
second in zone E**



**Jacob Gainey,
of Fingers
Match Mob,
with a 27cm
flounder**



**Birds Tackle
team member
Mark Ward
beached this
34cm flounder**



who registered three fish for 1lb 11oz.

Meanwhile, zone C at Salhouse saw similar catches. Winner was Adam Kingdon, fishing for Birds Tackle, who worked hard to put 16 dabs on his card for 3lb 8oz, ahead of Mark Pinder (Team Breakaway) with eight fish for 3lb 10oz. Third place went to Charlie Needham (Charlies Angles) with seven fish for 2lb 10oz.

Zone D was at the fancied stretch of Kelling, but with a lack of colour in the sea, it didn't live up to expectations. Darren Bond, fishing for Prime Angling, won convincingly with six fish for 4lb 3oz – which included a 1lb 11oz bass. Next was Rex Palmer (Hastings Angling Centre) who caught seven fish weighing 2lb 15oz. Martin Jenkins (Deal 1919) finished third with 10 fish for 2lb 11oz.

Also at Kelling, zone E was largely dominated by tiny dabs, with a sprinkling of whiting. Winner was Garry Hutson (Asso Anyfish Anywhere) who caught 11 fish for 3lb 5oz. Just behind was Richard Burt (Team Breakaway), who also caught 11 fish at 2lb 13oz. Third was David Aldous (Ipswich Sea Anglers 2) with 13 fish for 2lb 11oz.

The first day ended with Prime Angling well ahead with 24 points, ahead of Team Breakaway's 38pts, followed by Hastings Angling Centre on 48pts.

CATCHES IMPROVE

The final day saw the weather calming down considerably and the colour dropping out of the water even more. As a result, catches improved from the previous day (for some!).

In zone A, the expected bass didn't show and Joe Arch (Prime Angling) went in search of dabs, winning the section with 12 for 3lb 9oz. Gareth Cossey (Ipswich Sea Anglers 2) matched Arch with numbers of fish, but a lesser weight of 3lb 3oz saw him second. Third was Robert Stebbings (Stuart Guns & Tackle), who recorded 11 fish for 2lb 12oz. There was an improvement in catches in zone B – but only just. Winner Craig Maddocks (Gwent Beer Bellies) caught 11 fish weighing 2lb 7oz, slightly ahead of Paul Denholm's (Grimsby A-Team) eight fish for 2lb 3oz. Ed Driver (Sylcast) recorded seven fish weighing 1lb 15oz.

Zone C again saw dabs dominating results. Dave Read (Has Beens) winkled out 11 fish to win the section with 4lb 2oz. Second was Brett Cotter (Christchurch Angling), who managed 3lb 10oz from 14 fish. Third in section went to Mark Taylor (Grimsby A-Team), who had 11 fish for 2lb 8oz.

Zone D also saw an increase in catches, mainly dabs. Neil Marsh (Fingers Match

Mob) won after weighing 10 fish at 3lb. Paul Storer (Sylcast) caught six more fish weighing 2lb 14oz to secure second. Third was Shaun Tucker (Channel Anglers 1) with seven fish for 2lb 10oz.

Zone E saw far more dabs being caught, but many just made the minimum 18cm in this catch-and-release event. Winner Keith Erridge (Anglers Den) caught 14 fish weighing 4lb 4oz. Cameron Turner (Italcanna) bagged-up with 17 fish for 3lb 9oz to take second. Third was Brett Green (Zziplex Match Squad), who also caught plenty of small fish, registering 21 for 3lb 2oz.

The final day ended with Ipswich Sea Anglers well ahead with 38pts, ahead of Deal 1919 on 38pts, followed by Sylcast on 56pts.

PRIME TIME

Prime Angling, comprising Paul 'Shakey' Stevens, Joe Arch, Darren Bond, Colin Carey and Neville Charlesworth, eventually won with 89pts. Second went to Hastings Angling Centre with 109pts, with Ipswich Sea Anglers in third with 110pts.

Next year's final will be held at Pevensey Bay in East Sussex. Anyone wishing to enter a team or introduce a league should email Tony Thomas: thomasamt@btinternet.com or tel: 07780 793141.



A line up of top anglers forming a superb team – Prime Angling (from left to right): Paul Stevens (captain) with Joe Arch, Darren Bond, Neville Charlesworth and Colin Carey



Ian Howell, of Team Breakaway, caught this 31cm flounder in zone A



Keith Morley was unlucky to catch this 37cm sea trout in zone E – it didn't count

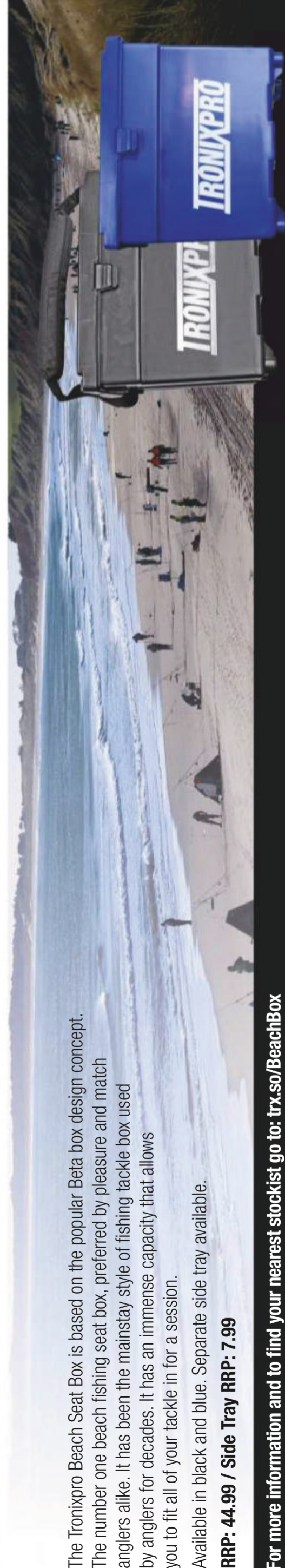
RESULTS

■ Day 1: Zone A: 1 Tom Wells, Christchurch Angling, 4-3-0; 2 Philip George, Garry Evans Match Team, 2-14-0; 3 George Smith, Asso Anyfish Anywhere, 2-10-0. Zone B: 1 Stephen Adams, Team Breakaway, 2-1-0; 2 Paul Stevens, Prime Angling, 1-14-0; 3 Henry Randell, Big Catch Tackle, 1-11-0. Zone C: 1 Adam Kingdon, Birds Tackle, 3-7-0; 2 Mark Pinder, Team Breakaway, 3-0-0; 3 Charlie Needham, Charlie's Angels, 2-10-0. Zone D: 1 Darren Bond, Prime Angling, 4-3-0; 2 Rex Palmer, Hastings Angling Centre, 2-14-0; 3 Martin Jenkins, Deal 1919, 2-11-0. Zone E: 1 Garry Hutson, Asso Anyfish Anywhere, 3-5-0; 2 Richard Burt, Team Breakaway, 2-13-0; 3 David Aldous, Ipswich Sea Anglers 2, 2-11-0

■ Day 2: Zone A: 1 Joe Arch, Prime Angling, 3-8-0; 2 Gareth Cossey, Ipswich Sea Anglers 2, 3-3-0; 3 Robert Stebbings, Stuart Guns & Tackle, 2-12-0. Zone B: 1 Craig Maddocks, Gwent Beer Bellies, 2-6-0; 2 Paul Denholm, Grimsby A-Team, 2-2-0; 3 Ed Driver, Sylcast, 1-15-0; Zone C: 1 Dave Read, Has Beens, 4-2-0; 2 Brett Cotter, Christchurch Angling, 3-9-0; 3 Mark Taylor, Grimsby A-Team, 2-8-0. Zone D: 1 Neil Marsh, Fingers Match Mob, 3-0-0; 2 Paul Storer, Sylcast, 2-14-0. 3 Shaun Tucker, Channel Anglers 1, 2-10-0. Zone E: 1 Keith Erridge, Anglers Den, 4-4-0. 2 Cameron Turner, Italcanna, 3-9-0; 3 Brett Green, Zziplex Match Squad, 3-2-0.

■ TEAMS: 1 Prime Angling, 89pts; 2 Hastings Angling Centre, 109pts; 3 Ipswich Sea Anglers, 110pts.

■ INDIVIDUAL: 1 Garry Hutson, Asso Anyfish Anywhere, 5pts; 2 Joe Arch, Prime Angling, 6pts; 3 Cameron Turner, Italcanna, 7pts. (Penn points on pg 110).



The Tronixpro Beach Seat Box is based on the popular Beta box design concept. The number one beach fishing seat box, preferred by pleasure and match anglers alike. It has been the mainstay style of fishing tackle box used by anglers for decades. It has an immense capacity that allows you to fit all of your tackle in for a session.

Available in black and blue. Separate side tray available.

RRP: 44.99 / Side Tray RRP: 7.99

For more information and to find your nearest stockist go to: trx.so/BeachBox



SEA LEAGUE

The latest results from Britain's biggest event for shore match anglers

PENN PLUS

BRITISH OPEN

Deal and Walmer, Kent, 140 anglers

Winner Michael Cox was in zone A at the favoured Sandwich Bay end, where he caught 45 fish for 7.160kg.

Fish were mostly whiting and dabs to lug and mackerel baits. Fished on the Continental system, the top four were the zone winners, the next four zone seconds.

Asso (Saul Page, Michael Cox, Tim Fagg and Richard Yates), were the top team.

■ **Result:** 1 Michael Cox, Dover, 45 fish, 7.160kg (14pts); 2 Martyn Reid, Folkestone, 31, 5.350kg (13); 3 Saul Page, Deal, 20, 3.550kg (12); 4 Nigel Scott, Deal, 23, 3.480kg (11); 5 Ben Arnold, Brighton, 39, 4.950kg (10); 6 Barry Sedgwick, Dover, 30, 4.880kg (9); 7 Peter Farrell, Portsmouth, 16, 2.380kg (8); 8 David Davies, Neath 12, 1.860kg (7); 9 Christian Lesley, Deal, 22, 4.100kg (6); 10 Sjaak Verhage, Belgium, 22, 3.940kg (5).

PENN PLUS

JE WILLIAMS MEMORIAL TWO-DAY FESTIVAL

Otterspool, Merseyside, 224 anglers

Zone wins on both days secured top spot in this popular two-day event for Barrow matchman Gareth Griffiths.

Three-times winner of the Penn Sea League, Alan Price was second with a zone win and a second to finish on three points, holding off another PSL winner George Smith. George finished on the same points but lost out on fish countback.

■ **Result:** 1 Gareth Griffiths, Barrow, 2 (20pts); 2 Alan Price, Kinnel Bay, 3 (19); 3 George Smith, Grimsby, 3 (18); 4 Nev Charlesworth, Hornsea, 5 (17); 5 Bob Gascoigne, Cramlington, 5 (16); 6 Bill Lindfield, Greasby, 7 (15); 7 Mike Fox, Withernsea, 8 (14); 8 Mike Emery, Isle of Man, 8 (13); 9 Derek Sharpe, Isle of Man, 9 (12); 10 Garry Reid, Isle of Man, 9 (11). Longest fish – Mark Leece, Isle of Man; Ray Corlett, Isle of Man & Alan Smith, Bolton, all 47cm cod (all 10). Zones (points based on daily entry of 112 anglers) – Garry Hutson, Cleethorpes and Ian Rycroft, Isle of Man (both 3).

REMINDER

Penn Sea League entries will only be accepted from the match organiser or officials of the club concerned. If results are not returned to Sea Angler within a month of the event, the event will be declared void for Penn points.

■ **All Ireland Cod Champs, Youghal, Co Cork, 50 anglers:** 1 Noel Fogarty, Dublin, 14 fish, 533pts (5pts); 2 Pete Davis, Limerick, 7, 304 (4); 3 JP Molloy, Cork, 9, 303 (3). Zone – Phil Ord, Kerry, 3, 121 (2). Longest fish – Donal Domeney, Cork, 68cm cod (2).

■ **Bass Rock open rover, Seton Sands, East Lothian to Holy Island Causeway, Northumberland, 21 anglers:** 1 Steve Williams, Jarrow, 2 cod, 3-1-9 (2pts); 2 Chris Empson, Dunbar, 2, 2-7-1 (1); 3 Andy Brown, Musselburgh, 1, 1-14-7, also heaviest fish.

■ **Blackdown SAC Christmas open, Blue Anchor to Minehead, Somerset, 45 anglers:** 1 Simon Langley, Wellington (4pts); 2 Mike Shipway, Minehead (3); 3 Dale Webber (2).

■ **Bognor Regis AAS Christmas open, Pagham, West Sussex, 29 anglers:** 1 Steve Osborne, Bognor Regis, 3 fish, including 128pt thornback ray, 154pts (2pts); 2 Roy Arnold, Falmer, 1, 104 (1); 3 John Delaney, Fareham, 2, 80.

■ **Bristol Channel FSA winter open, Blue Anchor to Minehead, Somerset, 92 anglers:** 1 David Rodgers, Cheddar, 144cm (9pts); 2 Gary Cornish, Taunton & Jack Reynolds, Weston-super-Mare, both 83cm (both 8).

■ **Cloughton open, Skinningrove to Spurn, Yorks, 105 anglers:** 1 Colin Stainthorpe, Whitby, 5-11-0 (10pts); 2 Dennis Thompson, Whitby, 5-10-0 (9); 3 Luke McCourt, Whitby, 5-7-0 (8). Heaviest bag – Luke Ingle, Scarborough, 11 cod, 21-6-0 (3).

■ **Colwyn Bay Victoria SAC fur & feather open, Llandudno North Shore, Conwy, 28 anglers:** 1 Jimmy Price, Abergele, 7-12-0 (2pts); 2 Bill Lindfield, Greasby, 7-9-8 (1); 3 Wayne McGilloway, Bagillt, 7-8-0.

■ **Deal AC 1919 Pier & Beach Festival, Sandown, Deal and Walmer, Kent, 82 anglers:** 1 Gareth John, Isle of Sheppey, 45 fish, 9.270kg (8pts); 2 Patrick Green, Deal, 35, 8.76kg (7); 3 Martyn Reid, Folkestone, 47, 8.460kg (6). Zone – Steve Swan, 7.320kg (3).

■ **Dover Two-day Pier Festival, Folkestone pier, Kent, 54 anglers:** 1 Richard Yates, Dover, 65 fish, 13.500kg, 4pts (5pts); 2 Neil Marsh, Margate, 7 (4);

3 Kimberley Lawn, Cromer, 7 (3). Biggest fish – Paul Gordon, Folkestone, 400g flounder (2).

■ **East Anglian Teams of Five open, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 70 anglers:** 1 George Smith, Grimsby, 29 fish, 9-5-8 (7pts); 2 Rob Tuck, Holland on Sea, 24, 8-2-0 (6); 3 Kevin Eley, Ipswich, 28, 7-5-8 (5). Zones – Dale Pegg, Elmsworth, 6-9-0 & Sam Creasey, Woodbridge, 5-8-8 (both 2). Heaviest fish – Craig Buy, Colchester, 1-6-0 dogfish (2).

■ **Furness FA Theatre Bar open, Priory Point, Cumbria, 39 anglers:** 1 David Hutchinson, Morecambe, 9 fish, 301cm (3pts); 2 Carl Richards, Barrow, 9, 300cm (2); 3 Jimmy Hair, 6, Barrow, 201cm (1). Longest fish – Wayne Fisher, 40cm flounder.

■ **Gower Rockhoppers heaviest fish open, The George, Mumbles, Swansea, 58 anglers:** 1 Tony Sargent, Port Talbot, 815g dogfish (5pts); 2 Sam Tucker, Murton, 745g dogfish (4); 3 Ieuan Jones, Maesteg, 725g dogfish (3).

■ **Gower Rockhoppers heaviest fish open, The George, Mumbles, Swansea, 49 anglers:** 1 Chris Jones, Porthcawl, 1.005kg dogfish (4pts); 2 Mark Cowell, Llantwit Major, 1.000kg dogfish (3); 3 Dominic Lewis, Llanelli, 0.780kg dogfish (2).

■ **Gravesend open, Sea School, Gravesend, Kent, 46 anglers:** 1 Lewis Clark, Rochford, 47 fish, 2195cm, including longest fish, 58cm dogfish (4pts); 2 Jim Maynard, Gillingham, 46, 1317cm (3); 3 Steve Burbridge, Gravesend, 35, 1021cm (2). Zones – Alan Underdown, Whitstaple; Jamie Harrington, Gravesend & Ben Cloke, Swanscombe, 34, 1005cm (all 1).

■ **Hamworthy SAC open, Baiter, Poole Harbour, Dorset, 29 anglers:** 1 Lee Fernley, Dorchester, 2-6-0 bass (2pts); no other fish weighed in.

■ **Harrington SAC cod open, Whitehaven to Workington, Cumbria, Dec 8:** postponed to January 5.

■ **Hornsea Marine fours and pairs, East Yorks, 82 anglers:** Heaviest fish – Chris Fisher, Aldbrough, 1.48kg cod (8pts).

■ **Loughor BC Flounder Festival,**

NEWS IN BRIEF

OFF TO A FLYER

■ Heaviest cod in the opening match of Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League, fished from Carnoustie to Ferryden, was a 6lb 10oz fish for Colin Holmes. The heaviest bag was Alan Combe's 13 fish for 34-7-0.

Loughor, Swansea, 201 anglers:

1 Gethin Thomas, Mumbles, 770g (20pts); 2 Sam Childs, Swansea, 808g (19); 3 Paul Morgan, Swansea, 770g (18).

■ Mike & Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League rnd 1, Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse, Angus, 31 anglers:

1 Alan Combe, Kirkcaldy, 13 fish, 34-7-0 (3pts); 2 Chris Horn, Kirkcaldy, 7, 15-5-0 (2); 3 Mike Kyle, Edinburgh, 7, 14-11-0 (1). Heaviest cod – Colin Holmes, 6-10-0.

Rnd 2, 20 anglers: 1 Daniel Campbell, 20-8-0, including heaviest cod, 4-15-0 (2pts); 2 Sandy Wason, Ayr, 13-11-0 (1); 3 Alan Combe, Kirkcaldy, 12-13-0.

Rnd 3 & open, 21 anglers: 1 Mike Horn, Kirkcaldy, 15 fish, 22-4-0 (2pts); 2 Mike Kyle, Edinburgh, 10, 13-10-0 (1); 3 Daniel Campbell, 5, 10-2-0. Heaviest cod – Chris Horn, Kirkcaldy, 4-15-0.

■ **National Sea League Final, day 1, North Norfolk, 165 anglers:** 1 Darren Bond, Lancing, 6 fish, 4-3-10 (16pts); 2 Tom Wells, Deal, 7, 4-6-5 (15); 3 Adam Kingdon, Suffolk, 16, 3-7-10 (14). Zones – Garry Hutson, Cleethorpes, 11, 2-1-10 & Steve Adams, Shotley, 4, 3-5-0 (both 6).

■ **National Sea League Final, day 2, North Norfolk, 165 anglers:** 1 Keith Erridge, Eastbourne, 14 fish, 4-4-0 (16pts); 2 Dave Read, Debenham, 11, 4-2-0 (15); 3 Joe Arch, Llanishen, 14, 3-8-10 (14). Zones – Craig Maddocks, Newport, 11, 2-6-10 & Neil Marsh, Herne Bay, 10, 3-0-0 (all 6).

■ **North Norfolk National Sea League rnd 3 & open, Cley, Norfolk, 31 anglers:** 1 Dave Burr, Croxton, 41 fish, 10-14-5 (3pts); 2 Bevan Self, Gt Yarmouth, 38, 9-13-10 (2); 3 Tony Thomas, Sheringham, 37, 9-7-10 (1).

■ **Poole Sea Angling Centre flounder open, Baiter, Dorset, 54 anglers:** 1 George Hennessey, Poole, 2-13-0 flounder (5pts); 2 Colin Ross, Poole, 3 flounders, 2-3-0 (4); 3 Ian Bickerstaff, Poole, 1-9-0 flounder (3).

■ **South Coast Beach Championship, Hastings, East Sussex, 52 anglers:** 1 Julian French, 28 fish, 12-6-0 (5pts); 2 Ben Arnold, Worthing, 20, 10-7-0 (4); 3 Colin Crosby, Hastings, 9-14-0 (3). Zones – Luke Mooring, 5-8-0; Steve Martin, Hastings, 7-10-0; Keith Erridge, Eastbourne, 9-1-0 & Steve Swann,

WHITING FEST!

■ Whiting dominated the Gravesend open fished on the Sea School stretch of the Thames Estuary. Winner Lewis Clark had 46 fish, including a 58cm dogfish, for 2195cm. The top three were all in blue zone.

8-15-0 (all 2). Heaviest fish – Kerry Saint, 2-10-0 bass (2).

■ Southern League rnd 11 & open, Browndown, Hants, 65 anglers:

Jt 1 Malcolm Penny & Dan Mogridge, Fareham, both 6-12-0 (6pts); 3 Mike Brown, Southampton, 6-4-8 (4). Zones – Dave Ware, Havant, 6-0-0 (2).

■ Southern League rnd 12 & open, Eastney, Hants, 42 anglers:

1 Darren Cramer, Southampton, 22-15-0, including heaviest fish, 10-15-0 undulate ray (4pts); 2 Russ Preston, Bristol, 15-10-0 (3); 3 Steve Greenen, Portsmouth, 14-14-8 (2). Zone – Jeff Fisk, Bournemouth, 9-5-8 (1).

■ The 70th South Shields & District SAC annual open, Roker pier to Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, 185 anglers:

1 Peter Ramsdale, South Shields, 5-12-8 codling (18pts); 2 Michael Rich, Whitby, 4-14-4 codling (17); 3 Steve Rackstraw, Sunderland, 4-3-7 codling (16). Heaviest bag – Neil Turner, 11-9-2 (7).

■ Veals League rnd 7 & open, Littleton on Severn, South Glos, 23 anglers:

1 Phil Thomas, Bath, 4 fish, 2-11-0 (2pts); 2 Kevin Daly, Bristol, 2 fish, 2-3-0 (1).

■ Welsh FSA East Region Shore League open, Cold Knap & Porthkerry, Vale of Glamorgan, 62 anglers:

1 Phil George, Cardiff, 7 fish, 5.02kg (6pts); 2 Ben Davies, Llantwit Major, 10, 4.92kg (5); 3 Anthony Wells, Cardiff, 3, 3.25kg (4).

■ **Weston-super-Mare SAA Christmas open, Weston town beach, Somerset, 34 anglers:** 1 John Lintern, Axbridge, 35cm bass (3pts); 2 Paul Curtis, Shepton Mallet, 21cm bass (2); Jt 3 Dean Burfoot, Gloucester, 20cm bass & Phytos Yianni, Weston-s-M, 20cm flounder (both 1).

■ Whitby Sea Anglers annual open, Skinningrove Beck to Coble Landing, Filey North Yorks, 110 anglers:

1 Simon Barker, Cloughton, 6 fish, 21-3-0 (11pts); 2 Andy Crowe, Scarborough, 8, 20-7-0 (10); 3 Steve Dixon, Seaham, 8, 19-7-8 (9).

■ Whitley Bay AS night open, Blyth to Tynemouth, 39 anglers:

1 Steve Williams, Jarrow, 5 fish, 11-1-0 (3pts); 2 John Burnyeat, 2, 8-8-0 (2); 3 Darren Swan, Newcastle, 5, 8-8-0 (1). Heaviest cod – Chris Robson, 7-2-0.

ISLAND COD

■ Steve Williams, of Jarrow, won the Whitley Bay AS night open with five codling for 11-1-0 from St Mary's Island. Second was John Burnyeat with two for 8-8-0 at Sharpness, with Darren Swan in third with 8-4-0, also from St Mary's.

HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes spread over the two divisions, points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three, section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match.

Penn also awards a prize of a 525 Mag reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue.

If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the editor. An angler can win only one reel during the year.

To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email.

Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to: cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk

MONTHLY WINNER

■ 566: Gareth Griffiths, Barrow, 20 points



LEADERBOARDS

includes all matches up to Dec 14
PREMIER DIVISION

George Smith	Grimsby	85
Ben Arnold	Worthing	84
Steve Williams	Jarrow	76
Gareth Griffiths	Barrow	72
Darren Bond	Lancing	69
Dave Lane	Weymouth	63
Craig Buy	Colchester	49
Julian Shambrook	Torquay	48
Richard Yates	St Margaret's	48

* Only those with 48 or more points are listed

DIVISION ONE

Stephen Common	North Shields	39
Kenny Bowen	Washington	38
Carl Champion	Swansea	36
Billy Foster	Sunderland	29
Keane Greenhow	Sunderland	29

* Only those with 29 or more points are listed

SHORE & BOAT FIXTURES

Your at-a-glance match events planner ● = Penn Sea League

JANUARY

- 13: The 42nd Sonik Amble open, Seahouses to Lynemouth, 10am-2pm, book in from 7am at Radcliffe club, Amble, NE65 0RA or in advance from local tackle shops, £12 entry.
- 13: North Norfolk National Sea League rnd 4 & open, Salhouse, Tony 07780 793141 or thomasamt@btinternet.com.
- 13: East Anglian Teams of Five open, Sizewell, 10am-3pm, Rob 07855 848967.
- 13: Scottish FSA North East Region winter open, Boddin to Ferryden, 11am-4pm, register 9am-10am at Commercial Inn, Arbroath, heaviest bag and heaviest fish payouts, £15 entry, Jake Chalmers 07913 076872.
- 19: Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League rnd 4 of 5 & open, Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse, 2pm-7pm, register 12.30pm-1pm at Victoria Park, all depart 1pm, £10 league entry, £15 per match, weigh in closes 8pm, SFSA rules, one rod, three hooks maximum, Chris 07872 944807.
- 19: Blackdown SAC open, Blue Anchor to Minehead, 3pm-7pm, sign on from 1pm at the Hobby Horse Hotel, Minehead, measure & release, £200 1st, £100 2nd and many other prizes, Liz 01823 666739.
- 19: Southern League rnd 1 of 12 & open,

- Eastney, 4pm-9pm, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish 1oz, £15 entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2019 League entry £20, booking in ends one hour before start, Darren 07919 073 232, Nick 07870 922 216, Mike 07983 579 596, Ian 07736 004 714 or Ant 07775 691 916.
- 20: Fords Sports & Social SAC 44th Open Beach Fishing Festival, Rolling Mill to Beach Lane, Netley, 8.30am-1.30pm, two zones, book in from 7am at HQ Weston Shore (no pegging beach prior to signing on), £400 1st, £200 2nd, £11 entry, £4 juniors, £4 optional pool, Angling Trust rules, scales close 2.15pm, Peter Oates 02380 693143.
- 20: The 12th RNLI annual open, Amroth, 10am-2pm, £200 1st heaviest bag of flatfish, £100 2nd for heaviest any fish, £50 3rd for second heaviest bag of flatfish, book in from 8am-9.30am at Temple Bar Inn, must use suitable containers to keep fish alive, £10 entry, John O'Connor 01834 891510.
- 20: Kent Flounder League rnd 1, Greenhithe, 9.30am-2pm, register from 7am at car park DA9 9AY, measure & return, book only, Ian 07791 234318.
- 20: Welsh FSA East Region Shore League open, Aberthaw & Boverton, Steve 07777 689289.

- 20: Hornsea SAC pairs open, 10am-4pm, John 07968 215565.
- 24-26: The 31st Irish Winter Shore Angling Festival, East Wexford beaches, pairs, teams of four (over three days), Warren Doyle 00353 (01) 2828769 or 00353 (0)86 8069961 (evenings). Email: Warrendoyle27@gmail.com
- 26: Hornsea SAC night open, 6pm-10pm, whistle start from Marine car park, John Aylward 07968 215565.
- 27: Tony's Tackle Excalibur Charters open, Eastbourne and Pevensey beaches, 10.30am-3pm, £1,000 1st, £20 all-in, catch and release to size limits, book at Tony Tackle on Jan 26 or on day from 7.30am at Eastbourne Angling Club, Tony Kirrage, 01323 731388.
- 27: Country Stores open, Loughor rover, 8am-1pm, Brian at Country Stores, Gowerton, 01792 875050 or 07970 404522 (evening).
- 27: Pleasure Anglers and Kayakers Association Tymeika Lunt for AVM open, Swansea Breakwater, 9.30am-2pm, limited to

- 60 anglers, £200 1st, £100 2nd, £50 3rd, £20 entry, £3 optional pool, anglers will be escorted on to docks at 8.45am (no entry prior to that time), book in previous week at Mainwarings 01792 202245 or from 7.30am on day at MacDonald's, Fabian Way, Alan Duthie 07847 188843.
- 27: Scottish FSA North East Region winter open, Carnoustie to Maw Skelly, 11am-4pm, register 9.30am-10am at Victoria Park, Arbroath, heaviest bag and heaviest fish payouts, £12 entry, Jake Chalmers 07913 076872.

FEBRUARY

- 3: Kent Flounder League rnd 2, All Hallows, 9.45am-2.15pm, register from 8am at car park ME3 9QD, measure & return, book only, Ian 07791 234318.
- 3: Hornsea SAC Mark Loudon memorial open, 10am-4pm, John 07968 215565.
- 4: Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League rnd 5 of 5 & open, Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse, 3pm-8pm, register 1.30pm-2pm at Victoria Park, all depart 2pm, £10 league entry, £15 per match, weigh in closes 9pm, SFSA rules, one rod, three hooks maximum, Chris 07872 944807.
- 9: Chesil League & open, Masonic, 5.30pm-10.30pm, best eight from 10 matches, £25 league membership, new members welcome, £15 match entry, book in by 3pm, Dave 07977 132951.
- 10: The Tronixpro World Dab Champs, Dungeness rover, 11am-4pm, RNLI friendly fundraiser, £100 1st prize, £10 entry, £5 optional pools, register 8.30am-10am at lifeboat station, weigh in ends 5.30pm, minimum size 25cm, Simon Newman 07802 415635.
- 10: North Norfolk National Sea League rnd 5 & open, Kelling, Tony 07780 793141.
- 10: Aberdeen Thistle SAC open, Stonehaven to Aberdeen, register 8.30am-9am at Fitticks Road, Nigg Bay, no entrants to leave before 9am, £12 entry, biggest fish and best bags, Shaun 07775 111897 or visit club Facebook page. In case of bad weather contact above prior to leaving.
- 10: Bispham Angling Sea League rnd 2 of 12 open, Five Bar Gate, Cleveleys, noon-4pm, book on from 10am at Bispham Angling, book only, £20 entry, £20 league, Hutch 07472 249294, Tony 07702 229015 or Jordan 01253 358194.
- 15: EOBC Flattie Bash, Hornsea and Mappleton, register 8am-10am at Hornsea Floral Hall, 01482 391669
- 16-17: The 26th Paul Roggeman European Open Beach Championship, Bridlington North Beach to Spurn Point pilot jetty, 9am-3pm both days, www.eobc.co.uk or 01482 391669.

Fixtures must be sent in by match organisers only and must include full details and a contact telephone number. Emails received will be acknowledged. Send events at least eight weeks in advance of the fixture to cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk

BUNDLE & SAVE

www.titan.fishing

Save 33% Off Individual Prices - All Major Credit/Debit Cards & PayPal Accepted



TITAN MATCHMAN™ XL Rod Carrier

TITAN™ Original Cotton Fishing Hoodie Smock

TITAN MATCHMAN™ Original Rucksack

PRICES FROM **£29.99** + P&P

TITAN



HANDLE WITH CARE

Check out these 10 superb tips on how to ensure many successful returns...

WHILE FULLY SUPPORTING BOTH fishing for the table and catch-and-release sea angling, in all cases BASS asks anglers to treat fish with respect.

As a result, this article deals primarily with caring for bass that will be released and ensuring we do not contribute unnecessarily to post-release mortality.

Catching and releasing fish inevitably causes some degree of harm, whether stress or physical damage, but it's my ethical responsibility as a sea angling guide to promote best practice so that when fish are returned they have the best chance of survival. Equally, if you choose to keep a bass for the table during the "take" months (within current size and bag limits), it is important to dispatch the fish humanely.

Of course, using unhooking mats and keeping fish submerged often isn't practical or safe when fishing on the coast. But it's easy to follow a few simple guidelines to improve the survival rate of bass. This is my personal take on things, informed by my work as a zoologist in Newquay, Cornwall.

10 SIMPLE STEPS...

1 Modify tackle: Crush the hook barb's with a pair of pliers. A well-played fish can be landed without barbs. Many anglers replace treble hooks on lures with specifically designed singles because the hook-up rate is very similar, but fish are easier to unhook.

2 Tackle maintenance: Replacing rusty/blunt hooks increases hook-up rate and avoids snapping-off and leaving a nasty bit of metal in a fish. Replacing roft of line and re-tying a leader avoids those weaknesses in line/leader caused by general use leading to snap-offs while playing fish and casting.

3 Landing fish: Consider how you intend to land a hooked fish before casting. This is easily done while wading in an estuary or a surf beach, but snaggy rock marks, where lifting a good fish will result in the line snapping, is more daunting with swell washing around the rocks. Have a plan, maybe agree with your fishing buddy to help each other. With a bit of practise, landing nets can be invaluable in these situations, but be prepared to have a trial run.

4 Handling bass: Armed with spiny dorsal fins and sharp gill plates, bass do their best to roll or freeze, with sharp points exposed making safe handling difficult. It's often easiest to grip the hook shank with pliers and turn it out without touching the fish, especially effective



while wading – the fish never leaves the water. The safest way to handle and restrain a bass is by gently inserting a thumb into its mouth and clamping the lower jaw with your forefinger. It's important to support the rest of the fish's body with your other hand. Not supporting its body results in unnecessary strain on the fish's jaw.

5 Carry like a baby: Avoid leaving fish to flap about on rocks or sand. Ensure you know where your equipment is accessible, keep in mind what your prize bass is doing, and stay focussed as it's likely to try to escape and may injure itself. Laying the fish on seaweed or in a shallow rock pool helps. When holding a fish, kneel close to the ground so when the fish starts flapping around, it's only a short distance if you drop it.

6 Unhook the fish first: It avoids the fish further hooking itself or yourself, and can be the longest part of the return process.

7 Learn how your camera works: Set the timer (say, for three shots after five seconds, 12 shots in 20 seconds, if possible) and then you're running back to the sea for the release. Consider returning subsequent fish straight away without photographing if you've already got some good pictures.

8 Don't target small fish: It can be difficult fishing through a shoal of tiny bass in the hope of a bigger one, but consider a change of tactics/lures to avoid them. After all, they are the future breeding stock (and a fish of under 42cm won't have had the chance to spawn even once). I know anglers who go home if they're being plagued by schoolies. Inevitably,

small fish get hooked, play these quickly and return them.

9 Get toolled up: Don't even think about leaving the house without a pair of pliers. You're not getting hooks out of spiky bass without them. Fish grips, love them or hate them, in the right hands and used correctly are a valuable piece of kit. Gently gripping the lower lip while supporting the fish's body can save your thumb from getting hooked, and give that extra space for removing the hooks, limiting potential damage to both fish and angler.

10 The release: Make it as easy as possible for the fish, and as safe as possible for yourself. Where possible, fish should be held upright in the water and released when ready. Although this isn't always possible and safe, instead of throwing or dropping a bass, consider lowering it back down in your net. Often returning fish is dangerous; always err on the side of caution. If it is too rough to get close to the sea, maybe leave a fish in a rock pool that will soon be covered by the tide.

We all know the shorter the time a fish spends out of water the better – some scientists suggest 30 seconds or less. Fish are designed to be suspended in water, and while gaseous exchange will occur as long as the gills are wet, environmental pressure on the fish's muscle fibres and vital organs will impact on the speed of the fish's recovery. Recent studies have suggested a very low mortality for bass released by recreational anglers.



■ Keep up to date with BASS through its blog on www.ukbass.com or on Facebook or Twitter.



WITH...
SAM HARRIS MBE
Veteran angler and
presenter of a popular
fishing show on radio

Not to my taste

The choice of fish supper for some pier anglers causes a surprise

MANY YEARS AGO, WHILE PUTTING A feature together for a British angling magazine about boat fishing in the Kattegat, which is the water dividing Denmark and Sweden, I fished with some anglers from various parts of mainland Europe.

After a hard day's fishing, during which we caught some wonderful cod to 20lb-plus, I watched the 30 or more anglers on board killing their fish with empty beer bottles that only a few minutes earlier had been full. How things have changed.

After dinner one evening, I went for a walk along the local pier and noticed four or five anglers were float-fishing on the end. When I wandered over to them, I discovered that they were from Germany. They spoke about as much English as I spoke German, which is extremely limited, so our communication wasn't easy, but, as anglers, we always find a way.

After introducing myself, I asked what they were catching and one of them pointed to a bag against the wall. The bag was moving, indicating that the fish were still alive.

I asked if I could have a look to see what they were and moved towards the bag. When I picked it up and looked, I quickly dropped it again. I asked why they were keeping this particular fish, of which there were seven or eight in the bag. Seemingly surprised at my question, one of the anglers pointed out that they tasted great with bread and butter. The fish in the bag were greater weevers.

As I wandered off, I said: "I think I'll stick to fish and chips, if you don't mind." ■



TIDES FOR JANUARY TO FEBRUARY

LONDON BRIDGE *

Copyright reserved: Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory.

JANUARY 2019

10	THU	04.03	6.64	16.26	6.65
11	FRI	04.34	6.56	16.59	6.54
12	SAT	05.06	6.45	17.34	6.40
13	SUN	05.42	6.31	18.14	6.23
14	☾ MON	06.24	6.15	19.00	6.06
15	TUE	07.13	6.01	19.57	5.93
16	WED	08.15	5.91	21.15	5.93
17	THU	09.44	6.00	22.28	6.14
18	FRI	10.58	6.33	23.34	6.43
19	SAT	** **	* **	12.00	6.69
20	SUN	00.35	6.70	12.57	7.00
21	☉ MON	01.30	6.89	13.51	7.23
22	TUE	02.21	7.03	14.42	7.40
23	WED	03.08	7.12	15.31	7.49
24	THU	03.54	7.17	16.18	7.46
25	FRI	04.38	7.13	17.06	7.31
26	SAT	05.22	7.00	17.54	7.05
27	☾ SUN	06.09	6.81	18.44	6.75
28	MON	06.59	6.57	19.38	6.45

29	TUE	07.57	6.33	20.35	6.19
30	WED	09.01	6.13	21.39	6.00
31	THU	10.10	6.03	22.53	5.98

FEBRUARY 2019

1	FRI	11.22	6.12	** **	* **
2	SAT	00.00	6.15	12.24	6.34
3	SUN	00.52	6.37	13.12	6.56
4	☉ MON	01.34	6.54	13.54	6.69
5	TUE	02.12	6.66	14.31	6.77
6	WED	02.45	6.74	15.05	6.80
7	THU	03.18	6.80	15.36	6.82
8	FRI	03.48	6.81	16.06	6.80
9	SAT	04.17	6.78	16.36	6.73
10	SUN	04.47	6.69	17.08	6.58
11	MON	05.19	6.56	17.43	6.40
12	☾ TUE	05.57	6.43	18.24	6.21
13	WED	06.40	6.29	19.14	6.01
14	THU	07.36	6.13	20.21	5.85
15	FRI	08.54	6.05	21.51	5.90
16	SAT	10.26	6.21	23.09	6.19
17	SUN	11.39	6.58	** **	* **
18	MON	00.18	6.54	12.44	6.95
19	☉ TUE	01.17	6.85	13.40	7.24

* TIDAL VARIATIONS FROM LONDON

Wick	-2 29	Barry	+5 08
Lossiemouth	-2 00	Swansea	+4 42
Aberdeen	-0 18	Milford Haven	+4 37
Stonehaven	-0 08	Fishguard	+5 44
Cockenzie	+0 47	Aberystwyth	-6 11
Berwick	+0 54	Barmouth	-5 45
Blyth	+1 46	Holyhead	-3 28
North Shields	+1 47	Menai Bridge	-3 08
Hartlepool	+1 59	Colwyn Bay	-2 47
Whitby	+2 20	Southport	-2 55
Scarborough	+2 30	Blackpool	-2 50
Filey Bay	+2 45	Morecambe	-2 33
Bridlington	+2 58	Barrow (Ramsden)	-2 28
Skegness	+4 29	Whitehaven	-2 30
Hunstanton	+4 44	Kirkcudbright Bay	-2 25
Cromer	+4 56	Girvan	-1 51
Lowestoft	-4 23	Ayr	-1 44
Aldeburgh	-2 53	Lamlash	-1 45
Felixstowe pier	-2 23	Greenock	-1 19
Clacton	-2 00	Oban	+4 12
Southend-on-Sea	-1 22	Gairloch	+5 16
Herne Bay	-1 24	Ullapool	+5 36
Margate	-1 52	Belfast	-2 47
Deal	-2 38	Douglas	-2 44
Dover	-2 53		
Dungeness	-3 05	IRELAND	
Eastbourne	-2 48	Dun Laoghaire	-2 09
Newhaven	-2 47	Arklow	-4 41
Brighton	-2 51	Rosslare harbour	+4 39
Worthing	-2 36	Baginbun Head	+3 53
Portsmouth	-2 29	Ballycotton	+3 45
Ryde	-2 29	Courtmacsherry	+3 32
Southampton *	-2 53	Baltimore	+3 35
Poole (Entrance) *	-5 09	Bantry	+3 15
Bournemouth *	-5 09	Fenit pier	+3 13
Swanage *	-5 19	Kilrush	+4 02
Portland	+4 57	Galway	+3 36
Torquay	+4 40	Clifden Bay	+3 41
Dartmouth	+4 25	Westport Bay	+3 57
Plymouth	+4 05	Sligo harbour	+4 25
Fowey	+3 53	Killybegs	+4 21
Falmouth	+3 30	Rathmullan	+4 43
Newquay	+3 32		
Padstow	+3 45	NORTHERN IRELAND	
Barnstaple	+4 30	Belfast	-2 47
Weston-super-Mare		Portrush	+5 48
+5 05		Red Bay	-2 41
Cardiff (Penarth)	+5 15	Carrickfergus	-2 42

WINTER CLOTHING

VASS 175 TEAM VASS RED & BLACK OR GREY & BLACK WINTER EDITION SMOCK GP £85.95

VASS 175 TEAM VASS WINTER WATERPROOF BIB & BRACE GP £66.95

- Ultra waterproof and windproof
- Breathable
- Ultra stretch for extra comfort
- Machine washable
- Dirt resistant
- Tear resistant and easy repair
- Lightweight
- Sizes available: S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3X

- 100% Waterproof • 100% Breathable • Windproof • Thermal inner • Quilted lining • Hand warmer pockets • Reflective shoulder/arm prints • Quad welded seams • Fold out storm hood with upgraded draw-cord • Large front pocket with Velcro and funnelled storm flap • Elasticated cuffs and lower hem • Extended body length for improved water run off • Quick drying after a wet day! • Machine washable

TEAM VASS 350 HEAVY DUTY SMOCK AND B+B SMOCK £59.99 B+B £43.99

VASS TEX NOVA 700 CHEST WADERS

Highly rated. Sizes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13
CLEATED SOLE RRP £79.99
GP £69.99
STUDDERED SOLE RRP £89.99
GP £79.99

Designed to keep you dry time and time again no matter how hard you abuse it and how bad the weather is. Smock is complete with a hard wearing hood, elasticated cuffs and large front pocket. Sizes - S 36-38", M 38-40", L 40-43", XL 43-45", XXL 46-48", XXXL 48-49"

SALE GREYS GR SHORE RODS

SO HOW DOES IT WORK?

TOREON® composite engineering provides a uniform dispersion of nano particles throughout the resin that binds the carbon fibres together. This results in a stronger and lighter material but in no way restricts the action that can be achieved. Working alongside their team of angling consultants.

Greys composite engineers have developed what they believe to be the best fishing rods on the market.

GR75S Flattie 10ft 9" (1-3oz)	RRP £129.99	SALE £99.99
GR75S Bass 11ft 9" (2-4oz)	RRP £129.99	SALE £99.99
GR75S Beach 12ft 9" (4-6oz)	RRP £159.99	SALE £139.99
GR75S Rock 13ft 3" (5-7oz)	RRP £159.99	SALE £139.99
GR75S Euro 15ft 6" (4-6oz)	RRP £129.99	SALE £149.99

PENN SSVI SPINFISHER LONGCAST

- Fully waterproof
- Extra strong and durable drag
- Ultra slow Oscillation for near perfect line lay
- Full Metal Body

5500LC (Cap 310y x 10lb mono)	RRP £179.99	GP £149.99
6500LC (Cap 330y x 15lb mono)	RRP £199.99	GP £179.99
7500LC (Cap 430y x 15lb mono)	RRP £209.99	GP £189.99

okuma ALC MAG

The Okuma ALC Mag is a heavy duty beach and shore casting multiplier with magnetic drag control. It offers exceptional value with unrivalled performance.

- Mechanical Stabilising System (MSS)
- XL Gearing
- Self lubricating gear system
- Cap - 335m / 0.30mm. Ratio - 6.2:1.

CRAZY SALE
Was £169.99
NOW £89.99
FREE POST

PENN

BATTLE II 8000 LONG CAST

- Capacity mono spool 370yds 15lb
- Capacity braid spool 220yds 0.22mm

RRP £139.99
GP £119.99
+ FREE SPIDERWIRE STEALTH 8 STRAND BRAID

PENN

SURFBLASTER II REELS

- Features 5+1 stainless steel shielded ball bearings
- HT-100 carbon fibre drag system
- Saltwater resistant
- 7000II Cap 330yds/15lb
- 8000II Cap 370yds/15lb

RRP £119.99 NOW £79.99

SEALINE SL30SH

- Capacity - 300m x 20lb mono
- Centrifugal Braking system
- 4 ball bearings for totally smooth operation & superior winding power
- 5-point support frame lightweight but extra strong anodised aluminium spool
- Multi-washer super-smooth drag system
- Counter balanced handle adjustable for increased leverage
- Rod clamp supplied perfect for rocky marks with it's fast retrieve 6.1-1

RRP: £160.00
GP £74.99

Century

NEW TIP TORNADO GRAPHX SPORT 13ft 11" (125-225g) Heavy - Mixed	NORM £595.00	GP £520.00
NEW TIP TORNADO GRAPHX SUPERMATCH 13ft 6" (125-200g) Light Heavy - Mixed - Smooth	NORM £570.00	GP £499.00
NEW TIP TORNADO GRAPHX MATCH 13ft 6" (125-175g) Mixed - Smooth	NORM £555.00	GP £485.00
NEW TIP TORNADO GRAPHX SUPERMATCH LD 13ft (50-150g) Mixed - Smooth	NORM £530.00	GP £465.00
NEW TIP TORNADO GRAPHX ULTRALITE ST 13ft (50-125g) Smooth	NORM £510.00	GP £445.00
EXCALIBUR TT 14ft 10" (4-8oz)	NORM £650.00	GP £569.00
EXCALIBUR J CURVE 13ft 6" (4-7oz)	NORM £540.00	GP £472.50
EXCALIBUR C CURVE 13ft 10" (4-8oz)	NORM £514.50	GP £450.00
EXCALIBUR SRE (3-7oz)	13FT 8" NORM £514.50	GP £450.00
	15FT NORM £549.00	GP £480.00
TIP TORNADO SPORT 13ft 6" (4-8oz)	NORM £460.00	GP £399.99
TIP TORNADO SUPERMATCH 13ft 6" (4-7oz)	NORM £457.50	GP £399.99
TIP TORNADO MATCH 13ft 6" (4-7oz)	NORM £450.00	GP £393.50
TIP TORNADO LOW DIAMETER SUPERMATCH 13ft (3.5-6oz)	NORM £440.00	GP £385.00
KOMPRESSOR WR300 13ft (4-8oz)	NORM £495.00	GP £433.00
KOMPRESSOR SUPER SPORT SS 13ft 10" (4-8oz)	NORM £460.00	GP £399.99
KOMPRESSOR SPORT S 13ft 10" (4-7oz)	NORM £452.00	GP £395.50
ELIMINATOR T700 15FT (4-7oz)	NORM £570.00	GP £499.99
ELIMINATOR T800 SGT 13ft 6" (4-7oz)	NORM £555.00	GP £485.00
ELIMINATOR T900 SGT 14ft 4" (4-8oz)	NORM £595.00	GP £520.00
ELIMINATOR T1000 14FT 10" (4-8oz)	NORM £685.00	GP £569.00
ELIMINATOR T1200 14FT 10" (5-8oz)	NORM £685.00	GP £599.99

UK MADE

LED LENSER MH6 RECHARGEABLE HEAD LIGHT

NORM £59.99 GP £49.99



- Supplied with rechargeable L-ion 3.7V battery pack and charging cable.
- White light options: Power, Low Power, Strobe, Dim (100-15%)
- Red Light options Power, Strobe
- Low Power warning system
- Charging indicator shows when charged
- 7 year registration warranty
- Full power 200 lumens, 120m range, 5h runtime. Low power 20 lms, 40m, 20h
- Weight (inc battery) 93 gm

COAST HL8R PURE BEAM RECHARGEABLE HEADLIGHT

RRP £139.99
GP £119.99
Ultra tough 700 lumen headlight with a quick charge battery. Features include 214M beam which can focus. Lithium ion battery and fully weather resistant.



LED LENSER MH10 RECHARGEABLE HEAD LIGHT

NORM £89.95 GP £79.95

- Rechargeable L-ion (18650) 3.7V battery
- Recharging cable • Carry pouch
- Low battery warning
- Speed Charging USB (80% after 3 hrs, 100% after 6)
- Charging indicator
- Transport Lock to prevent accidental battery drain
- Red or Green filters Soften the white light to preserve night vision
- Precision German Engineered Backed up with a 7 year warranty
- Full power 600 lumens, 150 mt range 10hr run time
- Mid power 250 lumens, 100 mt range 20hr run time
- Low Power 10 lumens, 15mt range 120hr run time
- Weight (inc Battery) 158 gm



FENIX HL60R HEAD TORCH - BLACK

NORM £89.99
GP £69.99
Featuring a Micro USB port for go-anywhere charging, the HL60R Headlamp delivers a maximum output of 950 lumens, beam throw of up to 116 meters and runtime of up to 100 hours from just one 18650 Li-ion battery.

Utilizes CREE XM-L2 U2 neutral white LED with a lifespan of 50,000 hours
Powered by 1 x 18650 Li-ion battery or 2 x CR123A batteries
Battery level indicator
5 Years free repair, limited lifetime warranty



LED LENSER XEO 19R RECHARGEABLE

NORM £249.99

GP £199.99
This could be a danger to shipping its very bright!

Cree Technology gives up to an unbelievable 2000 Lumens power in Boost mode. individually focused L.E.D's, up to 4 hours on high, 20 hours in low power mode. Range up to 300mts, focusable. Supplied in a padded soft carry box that includes, Neoprene pouch, Powersupply, Extension cord, bike holder, helmet connecting kit, Go pro mounting bracket, Tripod mounting bracket and waist clip.

FENIX HP30R RECHARGEABLE HEADLIGHT

NORM £149.99 GP £129.99
Powerful and versatile headlamp up to a searing 1750 lumens supplied with 2 Fenix rechargeable Lithium Ion 18650 battery, plus a micro USB charging cable enabling any USB power outlet to charge the headlamp. The belt worn battery case reduced head weight.

- Water resistance rating of IP66, so will continue to work in tough conditions.
- Burn time: Turbo - 4h / High - 6.5hr / Low: 400hr

5 Years free repair, limited lifetime warranty





All Zziplex rods now come with Fuji Alconite guides, shrink tube, coasters + rod bag. All professionally finished in house in Zziplex colours Red, White & Blue, but any custom build can be accommodated just call for advice! Note: We can now offer Fuji Titanium Torzite K Guides for the customer that wants the best!

UK'S LEADING STOCKIST OF ZZIPLEX RODS!

**NOW AVAILABLE
A CHRIS DANCE BUILD!**

Zziplex M4 GT. 13ft 4", 4-8oz A Fast action rod fitted with a glass tip to aid bite registration. One of the best all round fishing rods available. 25mm butt, Equal section.....

Blank £429.99 | Built £509.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £549.99

Zziplex M4 Hi-flex M A clean ground distance fishing rod. If you after getting over that sandbank at range and still want good bite registration, this is the rod for you. Popular with match fishermen. 24mm, equal section.....

Blank £419.99 | Built £509.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £539.99

Zziplex Profile GT. 13ft 3", 4-6oz A wonderfully nice clean ground fishing rod fitted with a glass tip which is ideal when looking for smaller bites. 22mm butt, Equal section

Blank £369.99 | Built £449.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £489.99

Zziplex Profile Evo. 13ft 8", 4-7oz This is a very slim fast action rod ideal for distance fishing over clean ground. It's fitted with a stiff tip which makes it better for dealing with larger species. 22mm Butt

Blank £349.99 | Built £429.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £489.99

Zziplex TF 50/50. 13ft 4", 4-7oz This is our best selling Zziplex. t's any easy to use clean to mixed ground rod which will deal with most fish that swim around our coast. 23mm butt, equal section.

Blank £339.99 | Built £419.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £479.99

Zziplex Evolution GT. 13ft 4", 4-6oz New for 2016. This rod is just beautiful. It is an ideal summer rod suitable a host of situations over clean and mixed ground. Fitted with a glass tip for better bite registration. 24mm butt, equal section.....

Blank £389.99 | Built £469.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £519.99

Zziplex Evolution CT. 13ft 4", 4-6oz New for 2016. This rod is the same as the Evolution GT but fitted with a carbon tip which is stiffer making it ideal for specimen fish, Rays, Cod, Hounds etc.....

Blank £389.99 | Built £469.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £529.99

Zziplex TBR 14ft 6", 4-8oz A new style of rod designed for heavy ground fishing with Braid. It's a powerful blank fitted with a slightly softer tip with benefits the braid. Suitable for both Multi and Fixed spool. 26mm, Long tip.....

Blank £519.99 | Built £599.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £649.99

Zziplex TRC. 14ft 6", 5-8oz Made of out new materials and resins which have produced an incredibly quick and responsive rod which has been achieving some incredible distances of 316 yards. It is also suitable for mixed to rough ground. 25mm butt, longer tip.....

Blank £499.99 | Built £579.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £639.99

Zziplex HSM 13ft 6", 3-7oz HSM stands for 'High Speed Match' and as the name suggests it has a quick recovery but no overly stiff and fitted with a softer tip for great bite registration. 25mm butt, Longer tip.....

Blank £429.99 | Built £519.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £549.99

Zziplex

M427 A great mixed to rough ground rod ideal is ideal for winter Cod fishing and Specimen hunting off the rocks throughout the year. Quick recovery. 25mm butt, slightly longer tip.
Zziplex M427 Hi-Flex. Designed for the same job as the standard M427 but with a slower recovery. Zziplex M427 SU. Designed with a much stiffer butt section for field work

Blank £419.99 | Built £499.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £559.99

Zziplex Powertex Bass 12ft 8", 3-5oz Without a doubt the best bass rod on the market. It's ideal for fishing light beach fishing from low or high water. Fitted with a long 8ft 6" tip which makes it feel amazing in the cast. 20mm butt.....

Blank £269.99 | Built £349.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £389.99

Zziplex Sea Raider III GT. 10ft, 4-8oz Brand new for 2016. The ultimate uptider? We think so. It's made out of brand new materials and resins to make it more responsive. It also features a glass tip to offer unrivalled bite registration.....

Blank £199.99 | Built £279.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £319.99

Zziplex Equal Section Bass Rod GT (Glass Tip) 11ft 8". 2-4oz The soft tip gives beautiful bite registration and allows soft bait to be thrown a little harder without coming off. This will become one of the most sold rods of all time we are sure.....

Blank £269.99 | Built £349.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £389.99

Zziplex Equal Section Bass Rod CT (Carbon Tip) 11ft 8". 2-5oz Slightly stiffer tip than the GT version, still with great bite registration, better for stonger tides. This will become one of the most sold rods of all time we are sure.....

Blank £259.99 | Built £339.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £379.99

Zziplex Trinity CT 14ft 4" 4-6oz Probably the best all round 3 piece rod we have seen. Ideal for clean to mixed ground when distance is key with a simple overhead cast. Slim, responsive and sits well in the tide.....

Blank £439.99 | Built £519.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £559.99

Zziplex Trinity GT 14ft 4" 3-5oz Designed as a true continental for casting softer baits extreme distance with an over head thump. The glass tip provides some of the best bite indication you can get in a beach rod.....

Blank £439.99 | Built £519.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £559.99



THE BRAND NEW SHORE ROD RANGE FROM SONIK



GRAVITY X5 14' - 5-7oz

A brand new equal section 14' powerful shore rod reinforced with the very latest X5 Nano-carbon technology. Supreme long casting performance combined with incredible power and fast recovery, for fishing heavy ground rock marks with ease. With excellent bite registration and a smooth power transfer down the blank, capable of extreme long range casting in the right hands, the SONIK GRAVITY X5 rod takes high performance shore fishing rods to a new level.

RRP £329.99 **GERRY'S PRICE £299.99**

GRAVITY X5 HT

Introducing the new and improved version of the very popular Gravity Surf HT. It follows the design principles of the previous model offering the right balance of power, balance and weight for an easy casting 3 piece rod with enough power to cope with larger leads as well sitting well in heavier tides and swells. The specially designed Hollow Tip (HT) not only sits very well in the tide but has a very fast recovery allowing the angler to produce huge distances with a simple over-head cast. We would recommend this rod for anglers wanting a true 'all round' 3 piece rod. It will cope with Smoothhound and Rays without having to use a much heavier rod and sacrificing distance.

RRP £349.99 **GERRY'S PRICE £299.99**

Sonik VADERXS 13ft Shore Rod 4-6oz

RRP £54.99

Sonik VADERXS 14ft Shore Rod 4-7oz

RRP £64.99

Sonik VADERXS 15ft Shore Rod 4-7oz

RRP £79.99

INTEREST FREE FINANCE AVAILABLE - ON ORDERS OVER £320

Subject to availability. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Deko (Omni Capital Retail Finance 0616240) registered offices are at 33 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8AG. FCA Number: 623235